MIDLANDS

ZONE

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

THE ESSENTIAL NIGHTLIFE + CLUBBING GUIDE

ISSUE 203 £1.80 MARCH 2014

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A GREAT BIG WORLD

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

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The Editor's Note

Ryan Humphreys @ryanhumphreys

It's March already! It amazes me how quickly the first two months of 2014 have come and gone. Before we know it, it'll be the Summer and the Pride season, one of my favourite times of year!

It's time to get married!

After years of hard work and campaigning by LGBT equality groups up and down the country, British same-sex couples finally get to tie the knot this month, and will be afforded the same legal status as heterosexual couples.

However, if you're already in a civil partnership, the bad news (for the time being at least) is that in order to 'upgrade' to a marriage, you'll first have to dissolve your civil partnership. Check out Lee Trubshaw's Legal Scene column on p57 for more information about this.

Last summer's victory in the House of Lords and, of course, Queen Elizabeth II signing the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act into law was one of the biggest LGBT victories since the repeal of Section 28.

Sadly, lawmakers in recent weeks have decreed that, were one of us to sweep Prince Harry off his feet and become a royal, we wouldn't be eligible for the title of Queen were he ever to take the throne. Luckily, that's not likely to happen in the next hundred or so years, but we can still dream!

Be sure to check out next month's issue of Midlands Zone magazine - a wedding special, it features a fantastic guide to help you plan your big day!

A glitzy affair in Brum

The entire team at Midlands Zone is really excited about the return of the Pride Ball this month. Taking place on Friday 28 March, the event features big-name artists and a delicious three-course meal. Most importantly, though, it raises much-needed funds for the region's HIV, AIDS and LGBT charities. In 2013, we smashed all previous records by raising in excess of £26,000 - that's a total of over £125,000 since the event began in 2005!

There's still plenty of time for you to grab your tickets too, but one word of warning - they're very limited in availability. We saw a huge surge in ticket sales in February, so if you want to come along to the UK's biggest LGBT ball, book your place as soon as possible. Just visit www.prideball.co.uk, or give me a call on 01743 281722.

Uganda's anti-gay law

Although the Winter Olympics in Russia are over, the bullying, harrassment and persecution of the country's LGBT community continues. The Olympics brought the disgusting affair to the attention of people all over the world, highlighting the fact that we must still show support for our LGBT friends in the East.

It's not just Russia where anti-gay agendas are hitting the headlines, though. Uganda's president recently signed an anti-gay law that will see first-time 'offenders' jailed for fourteen years. There will also be lifetime sentences for acts of 'aggravated homosexuality'. The new law also makes it a crime not to report gay people, and makes it illegal to talk about homosexuality without condemning it. At least the original bill's 'death penalty' clause was removed following international criticism.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has condemned the new law, saying there's never a scientific or moral basis for prejudice and discrimination. He's also accused the Ugandan president of breaking a promise not to enact the law.

It's situations like these that have inspired the organisers of Birmingham Pride to adopt the theme of 'Equality and Freedom around the World' for this year's event.

The Midlands LGBT community will take a stand and send a message to the rest of the world that this kind of bullying, harrassment and persecution simply will not be tolerated.

What's Hot!

Ray Quinn gets buff!

Remember Ray Quinn of X Factor and Dancing On Ice fame? He's always been cute, but now he also boasts a body most of us can only dream about! Not surprisingly, he's been added to our list of guys we love, alongside Tom Daley and Dan Osbourne!

Britain's military is the second most gay-friendly

Along with the Netherlands, Britain's military has been ranked the second most gay-friendly in the world, behind New Zealand's.

The UK armed forces received top scores for putting the gay community at the forefront of all policies and practices around admission, tolerance, inclusion, exclusion and persecution.

Meanwhile, our American cousins came in at number 40! Looks like there's plenty of work still to do there, boys...

Planning on being one of the first to tie the knot?

Following the news that gay marriages will take place in the UK from 29 March, we're on the lookout for couples who'd like to feature in Midlands Zone magazine. Whether it's the planning leading up to the big day or the wedding itself, we'd love to hear from you!

If you're interested in being featured in a future issue of Zone, get in touch with its Editor, Ryan, by emailing ryan@midlandszone.co.uk

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David Viney

Health & Wellbeing Manager
Birmingham LGBT, Birmingham

Born: **Birmingham**
Star sign: **Aries**
Age: **39**

Each month we take a look at someone from the Midlands LGBT community. This month, our focus turns on David Viney, the Health & Wellbeing Manager for local charity Birmingham LGBT.

About David

Where did you grow up?
Cape Hill and Handsworth, so I've always lived within spitting distance of Birmingham city centre, which was always a great place to visit as a kid. The old Bullring was an exciting place for a five-year-old.

Single or attached?
Happily attached.

What makes you happy?
Sitting and watching the world go by; the new Library of Birmingham has fantastic terraces, with great views over the city. It's a great place to sit, relax and people-watch. I'd recommend it to anyone.

What makes you sad?
That propensity in Birmingham to sit around moaning about the city and what's here for LGBT people. A city is more than a collection of buildings; a city is really its people. I always say, if it's so awful, then it's their responsibility to do something about it. We all contribute to the life of the city in one way or another, and particularly to the vitality of the LGBT community. So the challenge to the moaners is to get off their collective arses and make it the best place to be LGBT in the UK.

What makes you angry?
Asking people if they're 'clean', in order to ascertain their HIV status, really f***ing annoys me. The implication is that HIV-positive people are somehow unclean or dirty! Perhaps people should just use the words 'HIV positive'; they might get a more honest response and help reduce the terrible stigma that still exists in our community around HIV.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?
I worked in a call centre once and had a really obnoxious customer doing the whole 'do you know who I am' thing. They were very unreasonable. I thought they were on hold, and I was telling my supervisor how difficult they were in some colourful language. Unfortunately, they heard the whole thing and were not amused. The ground could've swallowed me up. I really needed the job, as I was at university and thought I'd be sacked. Luckily, my supervisor listened back to the call, agreed they were obnoxious and saw the funny side. I got told off but it never went any further.

What's your best chat-up line?
I'm far too shy to chat anyone up. I've never done it.

What's the best chat-up line you've received?
I used to get 'you have beautiful eyes' a lot. To be honest, I've been chatted up by more women than men.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
I'd love to be able to sing. Sadly, I've got a singing voice like a strangled parrot. I avoid karaoke at all costs.

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?
I guess I knew from a very early age that something was different. I was never really interested in girls, and by junior school I definitely knew I wasn't like most of the other boys.

When did you come out?
I came out when I was fourteen, so that would be about 1988.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?
To be honest, school was a horrendous place. Bullying was rife, and there seemed little effort made by the teachers to protect kids from it; it was very laissez faire. Although I was never bullied for being gay, I was bullied for being one of the poorer kids and being so small. However, I witnessed lots of kids being bullied for being suspected of being gay, and they had a really bad time of it.

Who was the first person you told, and what was their reaction?
It was a lad I was hanging around with at the time. He was okay, but distanced himself shortly after. I think he thought he might catch it.

Have you ever slept with a woman?
Depends what you mean by 'slept with'. I fooled around when I was younger, but wouldn't call it 'sleeping with'.

Your Career

When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?
I wanted to be an architect. A Lego overdose, I think....

What was your first job?
My first job out of school was selling 'rolled steel' products, wholesale, over the phone in Cradley Heath. Really nice people, but sadly it was the middle of a nasty recession in 1990 and they let a lot of people go after six months.

You're the Health & Wellbeing Manager at Birmingham LGBT. What does your role involve?
It's pretty varied, to be honest. There's the day-to-day operational management of the centre, supporting staff with the delivery of a range of projects such as the volunteer and older people programmes. I also programme events and activities into the building and externally, as well as scoping opportunities to develop new projects and services for Birmingham LGBT, such as the new 'coming out stories' - funded by Heritage Lottery - which continues our ongoing LGBT heritage project.
I also work closely with Steph Keeble on the development of the organisation, and am grateful for her support with professional development over the last few years, particularly around fundraising.
I've still got an interest in SHOUT Festival. I sit on the steering group and have been involved in programming November's festival.

What are some of the challenges you face in your work?
I'm a great believer in partnership and collaboration. I believe that, as a community, we're at our best and have the most impact when we work together. Pride In Sports is a good example of this, where a range of people and organisations have come together to promote LGBT sports in the city. I sometimes get frustrated when organisations or people won't work together for the greater good. After all, we're all in this line of work together, whether volunteers or paid staff.

What would you say are the highlights of working for Birmingham LGBT?
I think the variety of people I get to meet is always a pleasure, and it's very satisfying when you see the positive change in people after they engage with our services. Recently, I read some feedback comments from people engaged in our Older People project. One person stated that the project had been a lifeline for them. I felt quite proud to be part of something that can have such a positive impact on someone's life.

You were voted onto The Independent On Sunday's Pink List, alongside Steph Keeble. What was your reaction when you found out?

To be honest, I was genuinely surprised. The list is very London-centric, so to be listed was a big achievement for the organisation and the city. My friends take the p**s out of me royally and call me '91'.

What have you and the team at Birmingham LGBT got coming up in 2014?

We have lots going on over the next year. We're about to launch a new volunteer programme called LGBT Health Champions, and will have a much bigger presence on the scene, offering information about general health and wellbeing. A new heritage project launches soon which will enable young LGBT people to explore LGBT History around the theme of 'coming out'.
In late March we'll launch a new campaign to raise awareness of same-sex domestic violence, and in April we launch the third SHOUT Film Festival - look out for details soon in Midlands Zone! November will see a new-concept SHOUT Festival - can't say too much right now, but it'll be exciting. Finally, we're planning some Pride events at the LGBT Centre, as well as a whole programme of speakers and events for the coming year, so watch this space.
And, of course, if people want to learn about what's on offer at the centre, they're welcome to drop in anytime.

Where would you like to see yourself in five years' time?

I'm quite happy in my job, so hopefully working for Birmingham LGBT, or working in a similar role. Whatever turns my professional life takes, I'd still like to contribute something back to the LGBT community in the city.

Gay Scene

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the gay scene?

The Divine Miss M from Bar Jester; he's got a great voice and is funny. He's also a lovely person.

What do you most enjoy about the gay scene?

Its diversity. To quote a song, 'You never know who you might meet', in the sense that being lesbian, gay, bi or trans cuts across so many other characteristics. You meet people from all walks of life that you may never have encountered otherwise.

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

I really admire Steve Ball. He's had a great impact on the LGBT community over the last twenty years and was a founder of the organisation I work for. He's passionate about LGBT equality and has given me lots of mentoring over the years, which has helped me achieve my goals in life.

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene has changed over the years?

The scene has changed radically from when I first experienced it in 1989, and in some ways mirrors the change in the city. It's definitely become more outward-looking - quite literally - with open windows and sunlit bars, in contrast to mostly cellar bars and blacked-out windows when I first came out. It also feels more open and less secretive, with the variety of bars reflecting people's changed drinking and leisure habits.

How would you change the Midlands' gay scene?

Perhaps something like the East Village in New York would work well in Birmingham, particularly further into Highgate, with its industrial legacy. It has an eclectic mix of bars and a grimier, edgier vibe. A similar alternative scene could complement the existing village and add to the variety of a night out here.

Time Out

What do you do to relax?

I love the cinema, from art-house to blockbusters; a good film is totally transporting.

What do you enjoy on telly?

Game Of Thrones is excellent, as was Breaking Bad. I also enjoyed Peaky Blinders - nice to see a thrilling depiction of Birmingham on the telly rather than the usual lazy stereotype.

What was the last album or track you bought?

The Rolling Stones' Gimme Shelter (single). I've been meaning to buy it for years and finally got around to downloading it.

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

I like to do something adventurous, so perhaps a fly drive or inter-rail with lots of stopovers to explore new places. I've always wanted to travel around Russia and the old Eastern Bloc, or off the beaten track in North America.

Where do you like to go on a night out?

Apart from Birmingham's gay village, I tend to like travelling and seeing what's on offer in other cities. I quite like Bristol for a night out; it's a very different vibe to Brum. Leeds is fun, too.

Which one website do you spend the most time on?

It might be sad but it's probably the Guardian Online. I read it over breakfast, and that's all the time I get to surf most days.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Gary Oldman.

What's your favourite book?

My favourite book is Fatherland by Robert Harris. It's a great read and I recommend it highly.

Half-empty or half-full?

The glass is half full most of the time, I'd rather see an 'opportunity' than a 'challenge'. It makes life more interesting than sitting around moaning.

If you could be a superhero for the day, who would you be?

It's got to be Batman. He has the coolest gadgets and the funkiest suit; all dark and broody.

What's your favourite colour?

Purple.

Cut or uncut?

Uncut.

Gaydar or Grindr?

I find the internet a bit soulless, to be honest. I much prefer meeting people face to face, but if I had to choose I'd say Grindr. Gaydar is a bit turn-of-the-century.

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What's On
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We endorse the recycling of our magazine and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.

SCENE Birmingham gay scene businessman in Queer court victory over former Take That manager

Birmingham businessman and director of the city's gay superclub The Nightingale, Lawrence Barton, has won a court battle over using the word 'queer' at one of his venues.

Mr Barton was taken to court by Take That founder Nigel Martin Smith over the rights to use the word queer, the name of a Manchester nightspot Mr Smith's company owned.

Mr Barton and his business partner and brother Darren Barton, opened Queer Street in Birmingham's gay village two years ago. However, shortly after opening the bar, in Hurst Street, Mr Smith took exception and claimed it was an infringement of his business's trademark.

He took The Nightingale Group Ltd, owned by the Barton brothers, to court for damages for infringement on the word 'queer' as their trademark.

Despite the then owner Bar Queer Ltd going into liquidation in July 2013 the claim was assigned to NMSM Group Ltd, the new owner of Queer Bar in Manchester.

His Honour, Judge Hacon, found that NMSM did not have a proper cause of action to pursue the claim and even if it did have the claim would have still failed.

Speaking after the hearing Lawrence Barton, who also owns popular gay venues The Village Inn and The Loft Lounge, said: "We are delighted with the outcome on this case, it's a vote for common sense. We have an amazing gay scene in Birmingham and we already have a very strong local brand, I'm pleased that justice has been done and we were awarded a five figure sum towards paying our costs."

"While there is often some rivalry between the gay scenes in Manchester and Birmingham I cannot say if this played a part in the decision to bring this action, but regardless of this, at least justice has been done and we were awarded a five-figure payout towards our costs."

Despite the win the Nightingale Group Ltd has since closed Queer Street. The venue has recently been re-launched following a demand in Southside for a private hire venue for upmarket parties and functions.

Darren Barton, said: "Although this litigation has focused on the use of the word queer we closed the venue while the court case was on-going. Over that period of time we recognised a growing demand for an upmarket venue which people could hire out for their own parties instead."

CHARITY Huge surge in ticket sales for 2014 Midlands Zone Pride Ball

Organisers of the annual Midlands Zone Pride Ball have seen a huge surge in ticket sales in the run-up to this month's charity fundraising event.

The ball is the UK's biggest event of its kind, and takes place on Friday 28 March at the prestigious International Convention Centre in Birmingham city centre. Hundreds of tickets and tables for the event have been sold, with purchasers taking advantage of an Early Buy offer that allows them to make savings of up to £100 for a table of ten (still available until 12 March).

Midlands Zone Editor **Ryan Humphreys** commented: "It's been fantastic to see so many people getting so excited about this year's Pride Ball. The event is always popular, not only offering big-name entertainment and a fantastic three-course meal but also raising vital funds for the region's LGBT, HIV and AIDS charities and also this year honouring Michael Cashman MEP, who retires in may, for his LGBT achievements over the years."

He continued: "Anticipation and speculation is building within the LGBT community about just who we've got performing on the night. We're excited about the artists confirmed so far, but for the time being we're keeping it under wraps."

Tickets for this year's Midlands Zone Pride Ball are still available but are going fast. The event's organisers urge people to head to **www.prideball.co.uk** to book their tickets and tables as soon as possible, to avoid disappointment.

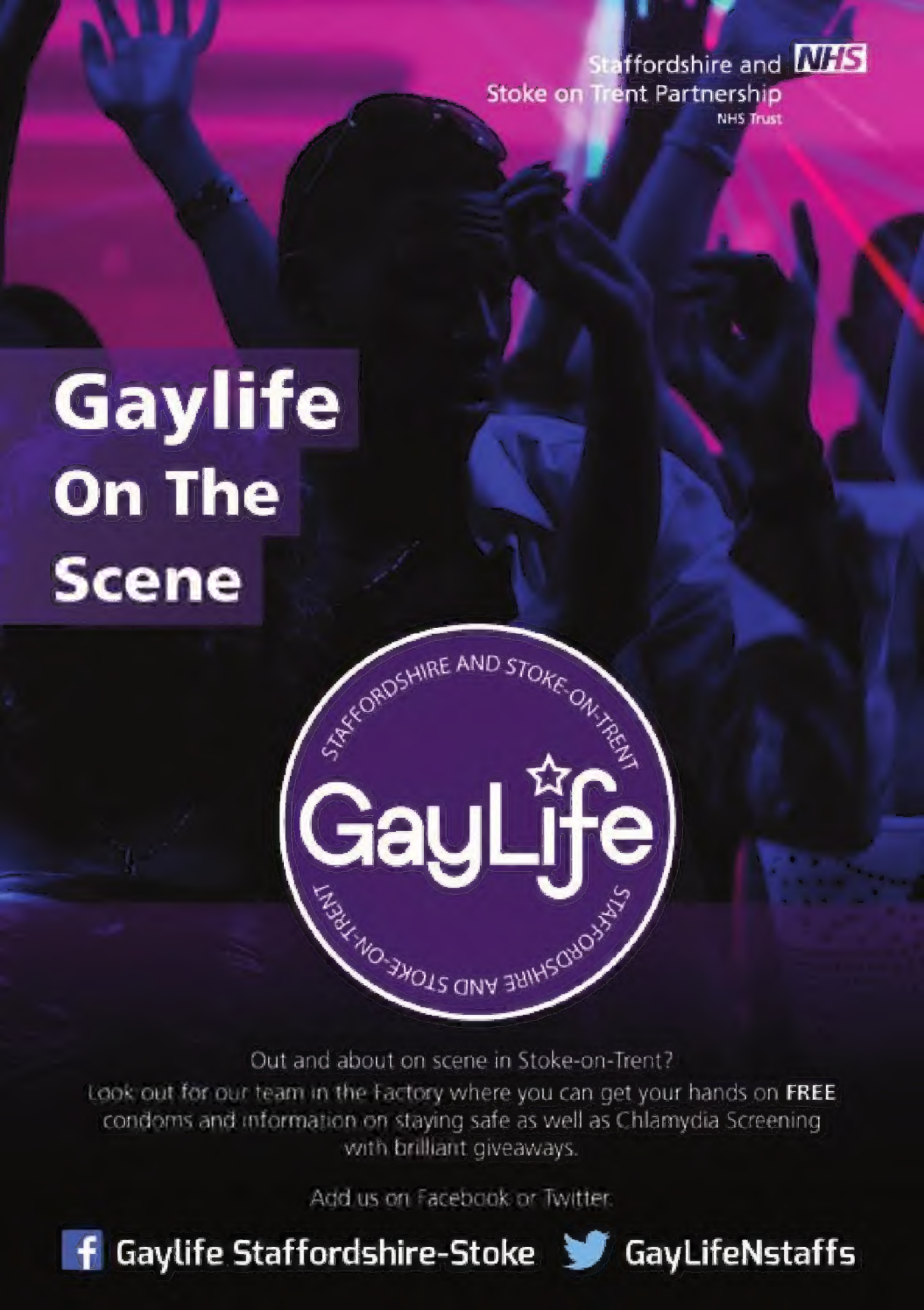
MARRIAGE Wedding bells set to ring in the Midlands this month

Hundreds of Midlands LGBT couples are set to walk down the aisle this month, when the new same-sex marriage laws come into effect.

Following years of campaigning by local and national LGBT equality groups, the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act was signed into law last year.

Same-sex couples will now be offered the same rights by law as their heterosexual counterparts, and will be able to tie the knot from Saturday 29 March onwards.

The April issue of Midlands Zone magazine will feature a bumper gay marriage feature, with hints and tips on how to make your big day special.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ARTS Birmingham-based LGBT theatre company scoops coveted national community group award

Birmingham-based LGBT theatre company Acting Out has come runner-up in a national awards scheme run by the Co-operative Group.

The company, which draws members from throughout the Midlands, achieved its success in the Co-Operative's Loved By You Awards, taking the runner-up spot in the LGBT Community Group Of The Year category.

Acting Out meets weekly at the Wellington Hotel on Bristol Street in Birmingham. The company performs four productions a year and has just celebrated its tenth anniversary. The group also received a grant from the Co-Operative's customer donation scheme, which supports community groups chosen by Co-Op customers.

Commenting on the awards success, Acting Out Chair Ed Brewster said: "We're thrilled to receive this award, especially given that it's a nationwide one. We'd like to thank everyone who voted for us, and all the people who supported us by coming to our performances in 2013. We'll be back with more shows in 2014!"

For more details about the group, visit www.actingout.org.uk.

CAREERS West Midlands Police to host LGBT recruitment seminar

West Midlands Police get involved at Birmingham Pride

West Midlands Police is on the lookout for LGBT individuals who may be interested in joining the force.

The LGBT Network is running a recruitment seminar on Saturday 8 March for LGBT individuals who're interested in joining up.

The force will have officers on hand to share experiences, and to explain what they're looking for in the recruits.

The seminar, which will also allow people to find out how the LGBT community can contribute to policing in the West Midlands, will offer an opportunity for would-be police officers to find out about the application process and the required fitness tests.

The recruitment event takes place at Police Headquarters in Birmingham, and is open to all members of the LGBT community. Anybody interested in attending will need to register. Details about how to do so can be found by visiting www.eventbrite.co.uk and searching for 'LGBT Police Recruitment Seminar'.

ENTERTAINMENT Gay scene favourite Glen returns with Spring cabaret show

One of the Birmingham gay scene's best-known theatre faces is busy preparing a glittering new cabaret show in Tamworth.

Singer Glen Chevannes will perform in the Candlelit Cabaret at the Castle Hotel, Tamworth, on Saturday 14 April. This is the eighth year Glen has staged the charity show at the venue.

An Evening With Glen Chevannes And Special Guests will see former cruise ship singer and panto veteran Glen perform material from a 300-song repertoire, including pop songs, ballads, big band numbers and showstoppers. He will be joined by special guests Jayne Hardware and Jenny Barlow-Jennings, as well as the glamorous Jango Entertainment professional dancers.

"Candlelit Cabaret is very special to me," says Glen. "The intimate, candlelit setting of the Tudor Suite creates a wonderfully warm environment - not just for couples but for friends too - in which to give and receive a concert. If you're looking for a chilled-out, relaxing evening, then I can't think of anything better."

Tickets for Candlelit Cabaret are priced at £26.50, include a four-course dinner, the show and a disco, and are available from the Castle Hotel. Doors open at 7pm.

NATIONAL NEWS

POLITICS Cameron's reforms leave HIV patients struggling

Thousands of people with HIV have been left struggling in poverty by the Government's welfare reforms - with some unable to afford the basic food they need to fight their condition.

The Independent reports: 'A national hardship fund for people with HIV/Aids, run by the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT), registered a 63 per cent increase last year in those needing emergency help because their benefits had been stopped.'

HEALTH Ten percent of gay men don't know HIV status

A survey of a thousand men on their sex lives run by Gay Times Magazine has found that ten percent of respondents didn't know their HIV status.

PinkNews.co.uk reports: 'The 40-question survey was filled in by a thousand GT (Gay Times) readers, which found that 57.4% of respondents had in the past had bareback casual or anonymous sex. Half of those who responded said they had been dogging, cottaging or used a glory hole, and a third said they had slept with a woman.

'On HIV status, 82% said they knew they were HIV-negative, while 10% said they didn't know, and 7.2% said they knew they were HIV-positive.'

EDUCATION Stonewall tackles homophobic cyberbullying

Stonewall has launched new guidance in partnership with O2 to help gay young people stay safe online.

Staying Safe Online was launched to coincide with Safer Internet Day (11 February) and is being distributed to secondary schools across Britain.

The guide provides practical advice for teachers and parents to help lesbian, gay and bisexual young people avoid abuse and cyberbullying.

The guidance comes in response to statistics showing that almost a quarter of gay young people experience cyberbullying.

This abuse has a devastating impact on a young person's self-esteem, and in the worst cases can impact on mental health and well-being, leading to self-harm and suicide.

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PRIDE IN SPORT

Join the Movement

Birmingham hosts a range of LGBT inclusive sports & fitness activities including Swimming, Rugby, Football, Table Tennis, Yoga, Pilates, Badminton, Water Polo, Cycling, Walking, Dance, Rock Climbing and Running....

Get 'Pride In Sport' leaflet in local community venues or check out the website for more details.

www.prideinsport.org.uk

Funded by birmingham lgbt
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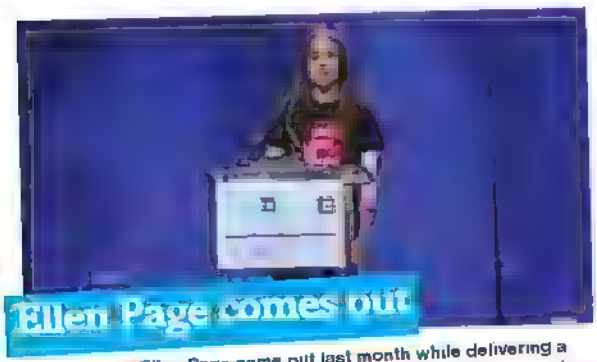
IT'S GONE VIRAL! What we've been looking at on the web...

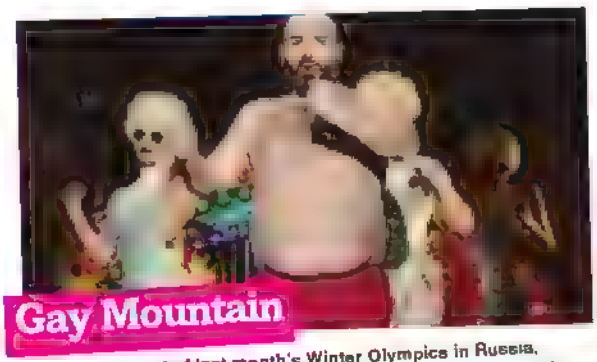
We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

Ones to watch - the best videos...



Ellen Page comes out

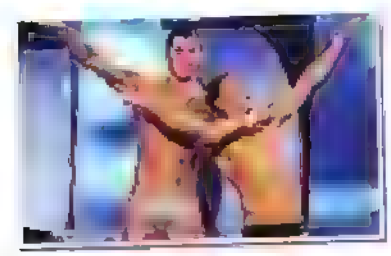
Juno actress Ellen Page came out last month while delivering a heartfelt speech at a human rights and equality event. It's worth a watch - and, as with other out celebs, Ellen will no doubt provide hope and inspiration for lots of people. youtu.be 1hICE1UATzg



Gay Mountain

Marking the start of last month's Winter Olympics in Russia, Channel 4 created a hilarious 90-second video in support of the LGBT athletes in Sochi. Featuring 'bear' cabaret and brilliant lyrics, you MUST check this out! youtu.be -6RiD82Ru-k

Daley & Osbourne cause a Splash...



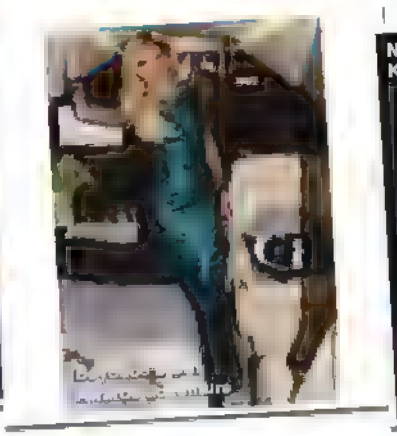
Last month saw the end of the second series of Splash - Tom Daley's star-studded Reality TV show in which he teaches celebrities to dive. This season caused a lot of hysteria in the gay community, thanks not only to Tom but also TOWIE star Dan Osbourne. However, it was only once the show's finale hit our screens that this sight was seen! We reckon many people's dreams came true when the beautiful boys stood side-by-side in nothing but their speedos! on fb me 1mCx6DP

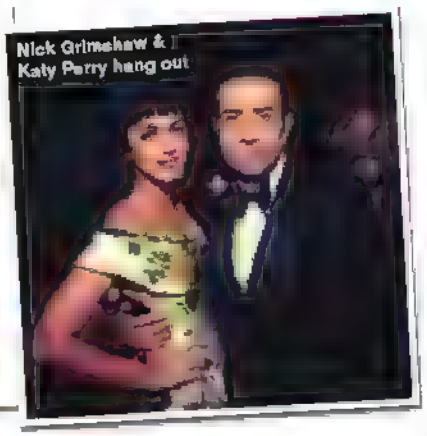
Ladies Looking

This video features a group of women reading real-life Grindr conversations - with hilarious results! youtu.be cbUa1mFM-LM

Our top three Instagram snaps!

Hot model David Gandy takes a selfie!





Nick Grimshaw & Katy Perry hang out

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Martin Monahan and Midlands Zone Magazine

The

MIDLANDS

ZONE

Pride Ball

2014

Friday 28 March 2014

7.30pm until 1am

International Convention Centre

Birmingham

A glittering night of action-packed entertainment including a special guest star

Tickets inclusive of 3 course meal, live entertainment and disco

Dress code: Smart lounge suits, black tie, ball gowns and frocks!

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This year we will be honouring

Michael Cashman MEP

for his many years of campaigning for LGBT equality

Michael retires as an MEP in May - come and show your support!

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Michael Cashman
to be honoured at Pride Ball

This month's Midlands Zone Pride Ball is set to celebrate the achievements of Michael Cashman MEP, who's standing down as a Member of the European Parliament in May. In anticipation of the event, we take a look back at Michael's career as a politician and LGBT campaigner - and at his time as an actor, which saw him play a groundbreaking role in EastEnders...

Even with his retirement pending as the Labour Member of the European Parliament for the West Midlands Constituency, Michael Cashman is still making a noise on behalf of the LGBT community.

Michael's time as an MEP comes to an end in May, and this month's Midlands Zone Pride Ball at Birmingham's International Convention Centre is paying special tribute to him.

Politics career

Only last month, Michael cut up his Visa card on the floor of the European Parliament chamber, in protest at their silence over Russia's anti-gay laws. He told his fellow MEPs that he would be boycotting the Sochi Winter Olympic Games' sponsors, of which Visa was one. During his protest, he said that he would never stop talking about sexual rights.

"I will never allow the tyranny of a majority to oppress a minority," he said. "The defence of civil liberties and human rights is paramount, and is finally the test of a civilised democracy."

A Member of the Labour Party since 1975, Michael served on its National Executive Committee (NEC) between 1998 and 2012, the year in which he was also the committee's chair. Ed Miliband presented him with a Special Service Award when he stood down from the NEC in October 2012.

Michael was named MEP of the Year in 2007 for his work in campaigning for human rights and received the accolade again in 2012, this time in recognition of his work with the RNIB on accessing books. In the same year, he was also the recipient of the European Diversity 'Lifetime Achievement' Award.

LGBT campaigning

Awarded a CBE in the 2012 New Year Honours list for his work in fighting for equality, Michael has been an active campaigner across a wide range of issues, and has worked tirelessly to end discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. He is also the Co-President of the European Parliament's Intergroup on LGBT Rights.

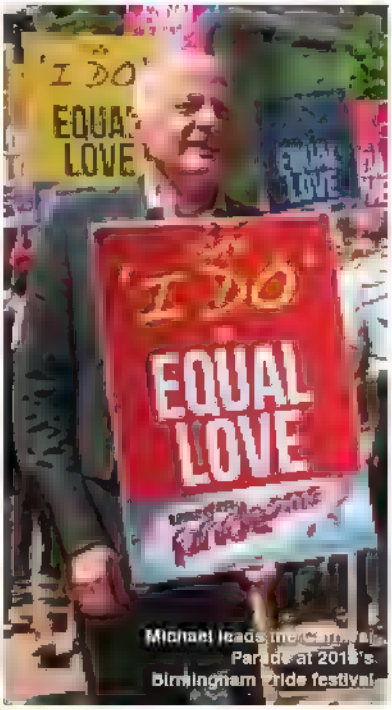
Back in 1989, alongside Sir Ian McKellen and Lisa Power MBE, Michael helped to found British gay rights charity Stonewall, which puts the case for LGBT equality on the mainstream political agenda. He was the charity's founding Chair.

Alongside human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell, Michael last year launched the Carnival Parade at Birmingham Pride. He then went on to march at the front of the parade, carrying a "Say 'I do' to Equal Love" placard.

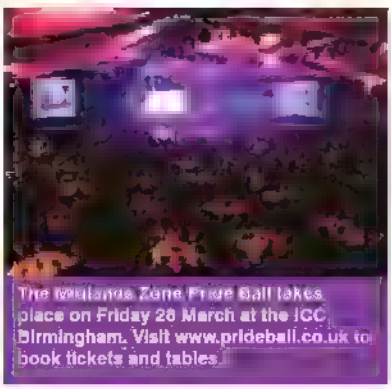
Acting career

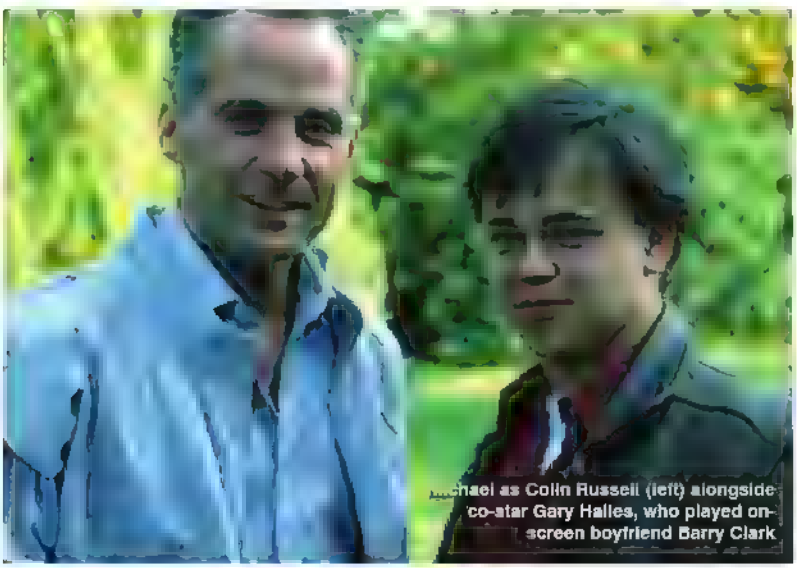
For those whose memory stretches back to the 1980s, Michael might well be familiar not only as a politician but also an actor. As well as working alongside such luminaries as Lionel Bart, JB Priestley and Sir Alan Ayckbourn during his theatrical career, he also spent more than two years starring in the BBC soap opera EastEnders, appearing in the role of gay middle-class yuppie Colin Russell. While playing the part, Michael engaged in British television's first ever mouth-to-mouth gay kiss, an event which The Sun newspaper memorably branded "a homosexual love scene between yuppie poofs... when millions of children were watching".

Alongside his involvement with politics and his acting, Michael has also worked as a director at the New Victoria Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme. He is also an Associate Artist at the Birmingham Rep.



Michael leads the Carnival Parade at 2013's Birmingham Pride festival


The Midlands Zone Pride Ball takes place on Friday 28 March at the ICC Birmingham. Visit www.prideball.co.uk to book tickets and tables


Michael as Colin Russell (left) alongside co-star Gary Hailes, who played on-screen boyfriend Barry Clark

"I will never stop talking about sexual rights. I will never allow the tyranny of a majority to oppress a minority"

A GREAT BIG WORLD

With their recent collaboration with Christina Aguilera hitting No. 4 in the charts late last month, Ian Axel and Chad Vaccarino talk to Ryan Humphreys about their music, homophobic bullying and the rights of LGBT people in Russia.

What's the story behind A Great Big World, guys? How did it all begin?
Chad: We met in college at New York University. I heard him playing the piano and I knew he needed to be singing, so I purchased him a vocal lesson. When he began singing, we became friends and we started writing together. Eventually, we began writing for both of our voices, because he started pushing me to sing. Last year we started A Great Big World.

How's it all been going since you started?
Ian: Initially, we were chugging along, building a strong and steady fan base. When we formed the band a year and a half ago, everything started accelerating. Literally three months after we started A Great Big World, the cast of Glee covered our song This Is The New Year. It just kept spiralling and spiralling and now we're here.

From where do you get inspiration for your songwriting?
Ian: It's from our lives. We don't make up stories to write songs. We write from our heart and we write songs that get us through certain times in our lives. Each song is like a chapter for us, and takes us back to a specific time in our lives. They're very honest, and I think that definitely comes across in our songwriting.

Your new single, Say Something, featuring Christina Aguilera, has just got to No. 4 in the UK. Are you excited to break into a new market?
Chad: It's crazy that the UK market is the last around the world that we're breaking into, considering it's one of the biggest.
Ian: It's a big deal for us to do well here, because there's so much musical history in the UK.

How did the collaboration with Christina come about?
Chad: Christina's management contacted our management, who phoned us to say she was wondering whether we'd be open to collaborating with her on another version of Say Something, adding her vocal onto it. We were completely surprised and flawed. It was only when she talked about the inspiration that the song gave her, and why she wanted to work with us, that it really sunk in. A week later, we started recording it.

Which other artists would you be keen to work with?
Chad: I would say Sia, she's a big one. Ryan Tedder is amazing; he's one of the best songwriters in the world.
Ian: I'd love to work with Ben Folds; he's been a big inspiration to me.

Why do you think Say Something is such a popular track?
Ian: We weren't expecting it to be popular or to be a single. It's a quiet song, and there's not a lot of production. It's very raw and honest; we wore our hearts on our sleeves writing it. Maybe it speaks volumes because it's quiet and honest. Because it's so still, it'll make you stop and think, "Wait, what's this?"

You've had quite a bit of success in the US already, including performing on The Voice and the American Music Awards. What's been the highlight of your career so far?

Ian: For me, it's the minute we met Christina and started working with her in the studio. She's a superstar! That's the biggest, most exciting thing in our careers.
Chad: I'd say it's the Clive Davis pre-Grammy party. It was a culmination of everything I'd ever dreamed about. We got to play in between Macklemore and R Kelly

Last year you released a song called Everyone Is Gay. It's a catchy, upbeat and uplifting pro-gay song. What inspired you to write it?
Chad: Our friends run a website called EveryoneIsGay.com and they wanted us to write one of the gayest songs ever for a compilation album they wanted to put out. I was bullied a lot as a kid, to a point where it confused me about my own sexuality. I was never confused about it until then. When we got this opportunity, I wanted to use it to speak to kids who're being bullied, or who're confused about their sexuality. I wanted to tell them that there's this spectrum, that one day you can be gay, or straight the next, or somewhere in the middle and that's okay too

Do you think there's still a need for pro-gay songs, to help raise awareness and tackle homophobia and bullying?
Chad: We didn't realise how much of a need there was until we started touring with the song in our set. There were several times when we had fans come up to us with tears in their eyes, thanking us for the message because their parents were sitting next to them and they didn't approve of their lifestyle. For their parents to hear the song was really important to them. It feels like it's one of the most impactful songs for us to play live now

What do you make of the current situation in Russia involving the rights of LGBT people?
Chad: In a time where we're moving forward with all these little victories for LGBT rights, we hear about Russia going completely backwards. It's like good versus evil. It feels like the more love and acceptance there is, the more there's also the complete opposite of it. It seems they exist together, and it's sad. It's motivating us, though, to keep on writing music that's filled with positive messages of love and acceptance

Your debut album, Is There Anybody Out There?, is out this month. What are your favourite tracks on the album?
Chad: People need to look out for my voice - they might be surprised that there are two lead singers in the band! Everyone Is Gay is definitely one of my favourites, I would say Shorty Don't Wait is a favourite too, as is Rockstar

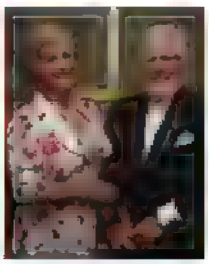
Can we expect to see A Great Big World touring in the UK in the near future?
Ian: We're planning on coming back quite a few times this year, including for a festival or two in the summer, so the short answer is yes!

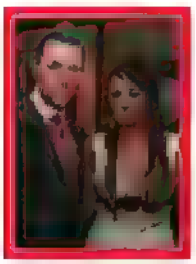
A Great Big World's debut album, Is There Anybody Out There?, is out on Monday 3 March on CD and digital download

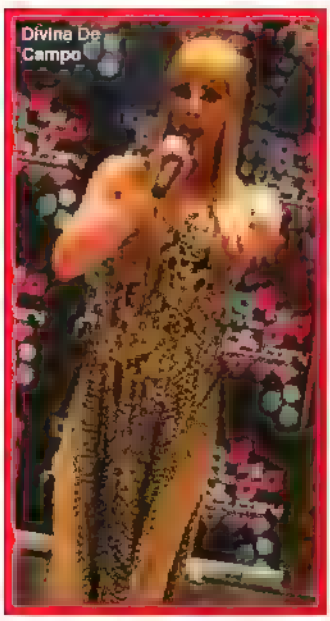
Stoke Pride: Valentine's Ball fundraiser hailed a huge success

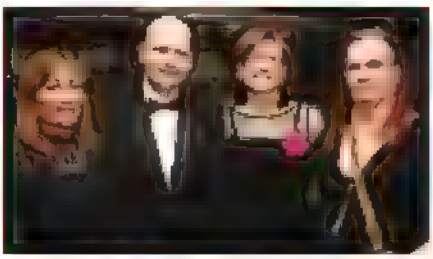
Last month saw Stoke Pride host its annual Pride Ball fundraising event. This year's ball focused on the theme of 'love' - though we can't say whether any of Cupid's arrows found their target during the course of the evening!

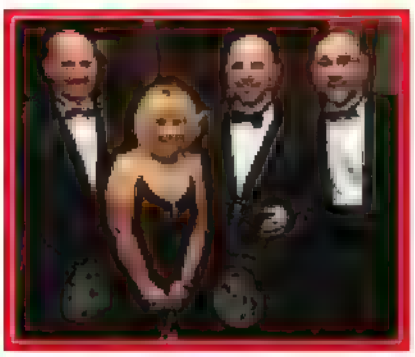
The event saw Stoke's LGBT community descend on the Best Western Moat House for a night of fine food, camp entertainment and a charity raffle, which raised hundreds of pounds for Stoke Pride

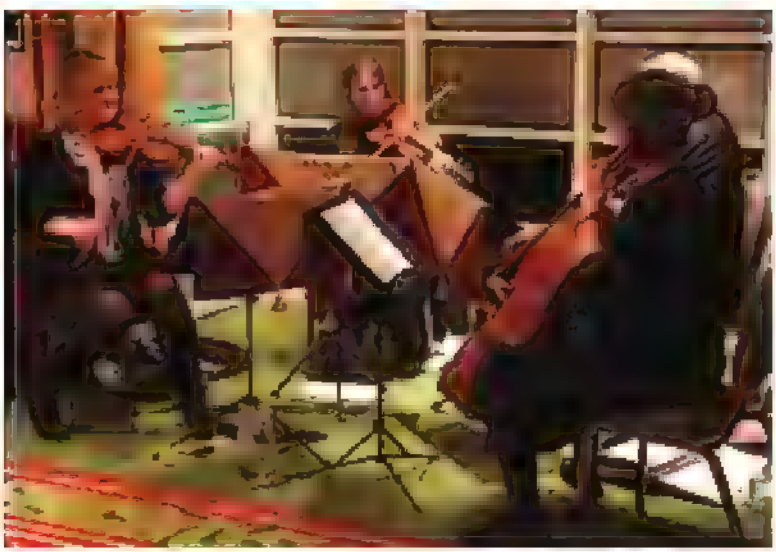


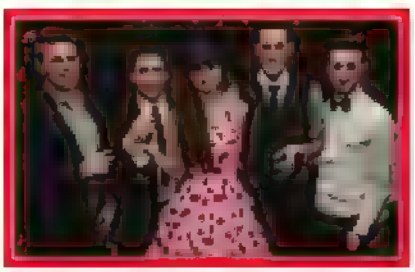












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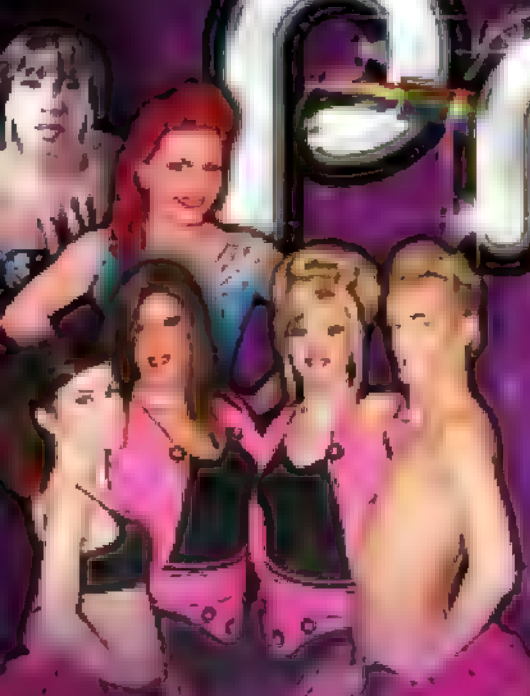

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05 Dark Red Snake Textured Brogue Boots

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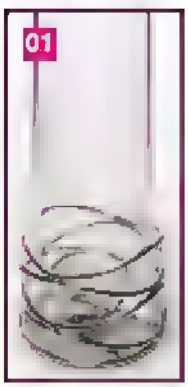
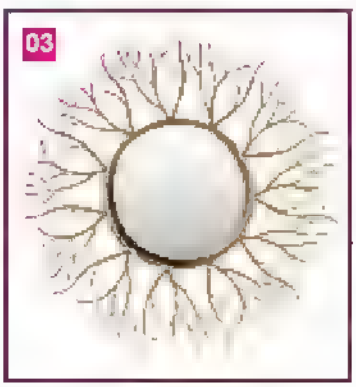
Oh là là

Check out our selection of furniture and accessories...





Top Emmerson Dining Table

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01 Twisted Chrome Base Tealight Holder

This glass tealight holder has an interesting glass pillar surrounding its base. A tealight simply fits into the recess for a unique look. Why not add a scented tealight to fill your home with fragrance

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www.tellingtales.co.uk

02 French Nine Drawer Chest in Black & Turquoise

The delightful combination of ebony black and a muted turquoise makes this cabinet truly unique. It's French furniture with a difference and we know you'll love it. No expense has been spared to produce a fantastic, subtly distressed finish to the solid mahogany handmade chest

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03 Branching Out Wall Mirror

A modern play on Art Deco styling, this circular mirror adds an elegant earthly touch to your decor. Hung on darker-coloured walls for a dramatic effect, it will make a real design statement and add a glorious glimmer of glamour!

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www.frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk

04 French Vintage Bottle Lamp

Vintage is bang on trend at the moment and the momentum shows no sign of slowing. This art deco style lamp is, adds a unique and funky design to any home. Couple it with a shabby chic side table for the ultimate vintage look.

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1 Pebble Steel
The latest iteration of the popular Pebble smart watch. Syncing to your phone via Bluetooth, the Pebble Steel displays notifications such as calls, texts and emails, as well as running handy apps. The watch comes with two straps, metal and leather, and is waterproof to 5ATM.
£150 www.getpebble.com

2 Sony Xperia Z1 Compact
The Xperia Z1 Compact is everything you expect in a premium smartphone, and fits perfectly into your hand. Capture stunning photos and videos, then play them back on the stunning hi-definition screen. Oh, and it's waterproof too!
£449 www.sonymobile.com

3 Sony α NEX-5R
Featuring a 16.1MP DLSR-size sensor, the Alpha NEX-5R from Sony also incorporates Wi-Fi, a tiltable 180-degree touchscreen and full HD video. You'll get pro-quality shots with this compact device.
£649 www.jessops.com

4 Paper
Using Facebook's new app you can explore and share stories from friends and the world in immersive designs and distraction-free layouts. Paper includes your Facebook News Feed and sections about your favourite topics.
FREE iOS App Store

5 Acer Iconia A1-839
Acer's latest high-resolution 7.9" tablet is ideal for reading and web browsing. Made from top-quality materials, the smooth silver metal back makes it feel like a premium product!
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6 Lenovo Yoga 2
The Yoga 2 11" is a versatile multimode Ultrabook in a small package. It features a 360° flip design, allowing you to flip seamlessly from laptop to tablet.
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7 Apple Mac Pro
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WIN! Three hot PUMP! jockstraps up for grabs!

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WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

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MARCH 2014

GAY CLUBBING AROUND THE MIDLANDS

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN THE REGION

INSIDE...

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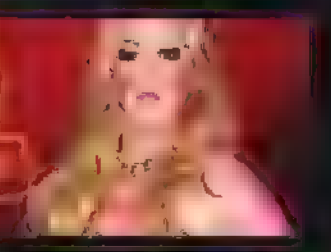
HOSTED BY DJ MATT

tune up tuesday



DJ CRAIG

WACKY WEDS

HOSTED BY CHARLIE MARKS

party pop

DJ MARCUS JAMES

OPEN TIL 6AM

Thirsty Retro

DJ MATT

OPEN TIL 6AM

OPEN UNTIL 6AM

DJ MATT

OPEN TIL 6AM

#Just saying

SUNDAY Funday

BARS ON THE DECKS

SUN/MON/TUES/WED

10PM 'TIL 4AM

THU/FRI/SAT

9PM 'TIL 6AM

BAR JESTER, 42 HOLLOWAY [illegible]

0121 643 8344 · BARJESTER.CO.UK

DESIGN: [illegible]

Ministry Of Pound St Patrick's Day special in Birmingham

To celebrate St Patrick's Day, the team at Missing are throwing a good old-fashioned Irish knees-up, with live entertainment, on Monday 17 March.

Ministry Of Pound features a live PA from Irish dance group the Jean Davis Academy.

And that's not all - in true Ministry Of Pound fashion, there are £1 drinks to enjoy all night long.

Happy St Paddy's Day!

Missing - Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM

2-FOR-1 COCKTAILS ANYONE?

Just because the weekend's ended, it doesn't mean you can't pop out and enjoy yourself after work. Head to Birmingham's Loft Lounge for 2-for-1 cocktails all day! There's a great selection, ensuring there's something for everyone.

The Loft Lounge - Birmingham

❑ **2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS** Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

❑ **MINISTRY OF POUND** - with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1. Open until 2am. Missing Bar

❑ **MINISTRY OF POUND** - *Mon 17 Mar* - St Patricks Day special, live on stage at 11pm Jean Davis Academy. Missing Bar

❑ **MONDAY MADNESS** - Weekly drink offers with DJ Matt. Bar Jester

❑ **PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT** - with Mrs Mills and DJ Craig. Cash prizes and free drinks. The Village Inn

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT WITH MRS MILLS

Take a trip to The Village Inn in Birmingham for a night of fun and games with Mrs Mills and DJ Craig.

Good old-fashioned Play Your Cards Right takes place every Monday, with some great prizes to be won!

The Village Inn - Birmingham

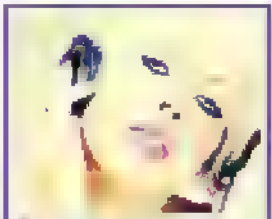
❑ **POUNDED** - Bringing back the Pink Pounder. Selected drinks from £1 (branded spirits). Sidewalk

❑ **SUGAR RUSH** - £2 entry drinks from £2 various DJs. Nightingale Club

OUTSKIRTS 1st & 3rd Monday monthly. Equator Bar

WEST MIDLANDS

❑ **FABULOUS** - *Mon 3 Mar* - Vicky Jackson as Pink. Drinks from just £1. C:21, Shrewsbury



VICKY JACKSON RETURNS TO C:21

Midlands Zone Readers' Award-winner Vicky Jackson returns to Shrewsbury's C:21 this month (Mon 3 March) with her popular Pink tribute act. It's free admission before 11pm, and cheap drinks all night!

C:21 - Shrewsbury

❑ **POP NOODLED** - 7pm till 4am. Downstairs with DJ Destiny and upstairs with DJ Brucie. Free candy and £1.50 drinks until midnight. Free admission before 11pm. The Factory, Stoke on Trent

CHILLAX with Free Pop and cheap drinks. The White Hart Wolverhampton

CHILL NIGHT with Karaoke Three Furnaces Telford

THE MONDAY CLUB 9pm-3am. Student night. Everything is £2. Shots £1 with DJ Lee Edward. Gorgeous Wolves

STUDENT NIGHT Free access on all drinks £1.50 before midnight. Pink Stoke on Trent

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open from 2am to 2am for a great drink in a friendly atmosphere. The Boston Northampton

COCKTAIL NATION & DAVE'S DEALS £3.50 cocktails. Karaoke from 8pm. Rainbow & Dove Leicester

SIDEWALK
SATURDAY MARCH 29TH
THE White PARTY
DRINKS
OFFERS
FREE
ENTRY
DJ
ALL NIGHT
£2.75
ALL DAY EVERYDAY PRICES!
£2.50 £2.00 £2.50
ALL FLAVOURS
£3.50
DRESS CODE
ALL WHITE EVERYTHING

TUESDAY | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | MARCH

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **The Loft Lounge**

GAMER NIGHT Show your skills on Xbox Tournaments, prizes for the winners. **Sidewalk**

DJ JAMES HOSTS A NIGHT OF KARAOKE

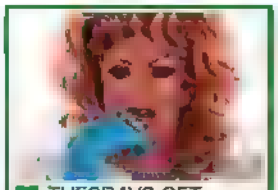
Every Tuesday sees Birmingham's Missing Bar hosting a night of karaoke. Join DJ James from 9pm till late and blast out some of your favourite songs over the microphone! Whether you can sing or not, it's always good for a laugh!

Missing - Birmingham

MIS-SING KARAOKE - With your host, James. Party starts at 9pm till late. **Missing Bar**

TACKY TUESDAYS - with Charlotte and Miss Penny Songs, Games & Prizes. **The Village Inn**

TUNE UP TUESDAY - with Baby Doll. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 10pm-6am. **Bar Jester**



TUESDAYS GET TACKY IN BIRMINGHAM

Miss Penny and Charlotte the Harlotte are on hand every Tuesday with a night of tacky fun. Join them to win a host of great prizes, from free drinks behind the bar to free admission to The Nightingale.

The Village Inn - Birmingham

Xbox tournaments every Tuesday night at Sidewalk

If you're a keen video gamer - whether it be Fifa, Call Of Duty, Grand Theft Auto or Halo that floats your boat - Sidewalk has the event for you.

Pop down and join the team at the popular Birmingham gay bar every Tuesday for their weekly Xbox game tournament. Show off your skills on selected games - and if you're crowned as the top player, you'll walk away with some great prizes! 3,2,1 - game on!

Sidewalk - Birmingham

STUDENT PARTY AT THE LION IN WALSALL

Tuesday nights in Walsall see one of the town's biggest student parties taking place. Join DJ Vikki Scott for a night of great music, cheap drinks and a fantastic party atmosphere. You'll be coming back for more week after week!

The Lion Bar & Club - Walsall

WEST MIDLANDS

CAMP QUIZ - With free buffet. Quiz starts 8.30pm. Three Furnaces Telford

DIVERSITY - Weekly gay friendly night with DJ Jay playing everything from pop & hip hop to R&B. Velvet Worcester

FLAUNT - A twist of awesome tunes to suit everyone. Brewery Tap Worcester

KARAOKE & KARAOKE - Karaoke 9pm-2am and a curry for just £3.95. The White Hart Wolverhampton

STUDENT PARTY - Join DJ Vikki Scott for Walsall's biggest Tuesday night party. The Lion Bar & Club Walsall

EAST MIDLANDS

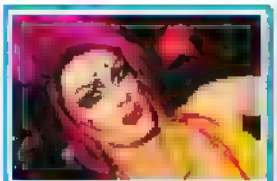
2 TILL 2 - Open from 2pm till 2am for a real drink in a friendly atmosphere. The Boston Northampton

GAMES NIGHT - Free Pool and Nintendo Wii from 8pm. Dover Castle Leicester

WEDNESDAY | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | MARCH

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **The Loft Lounge**

2 GOOD 2 MISS - Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mykee **Missing Bar**



HAVE YOU GOT THE VOICE OF BIRMINGHAM?

If you think you've got a singing voice to rival Beyonce, Ellie Goulding or Gary Barlow, then pop along to Birmingham's Village Inn and show it off to Charlotte The Harlotte and DJ Deano. Sadly, there are no recording contracts for the best singers!

The Village Inn - Birmingham

KARAOKE - with Charlotte the Harlotte and DJ Deano. Free Shots for all participants. **The Village Inn**

GET WACKY THIS WEDNESDAY IN BRUM

There's some midweek fun to be had every Wednesday night at Birmingham's favourite late-night venue, Bar Jester. If you're looking for a great way to spend your night, stop by and say hi to your host for the evening, Hallie James, and DJ Craig, who'll be spinning the tunes!

Bar Jester - Birmingham

WACKY WEDNESDAYS - Hosted by Hallie James with DJ Craig. **Bar Jester**

FIERCE & FABULOUS - *Fri 7 Feb* - Gay comedy extravaganza Co hosted by Dana Alexander and Jonathan Mayor. The Glee Club

MIDWEEK MAYHEM - Free Pool. Open 7-11pm. The Fox

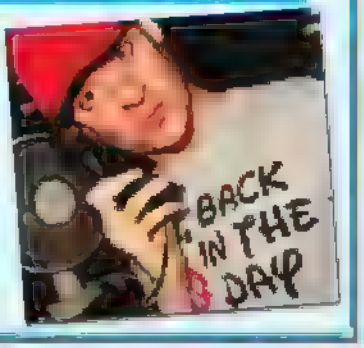
WEDNESDAY LIVE - Live Dancing every Wednesday. The Wellington

[illegible] - Play Your Cards Right with DJ Lips & Gale Force. The White Hart Wolverhampton

[illegible]

So you've made it to the middle of the week and you're desperate for the weekend to arrive. Well, why wait? Pop into Missing Bar in Birmingham for a night of top fun, great tunes and cheap drinks in the company of DJ Mykee and the rest of the venue's team. They certainly know how to throw an awesome party, regardless of what day of the week it is!

Missing - Birmingham



PINK POUNDER

Join Miss Penny for a night of fun, games and cheap drinks at Leicester's Dover Castle, every Wednesday night from 9pm!

Dover Castle - Leicester

KARAOKE - 9pm-3am. £2 drinks from 8am till 11pm. Free Entry. The Boston Northampton

OUT - Everyone's Out. Free entry for students. £1 drinks till 3am. Nq1 Nottingham

PINK POUNDER - Join Penny for a night of fun & games from 9pm. Dover Castle, Leicester

STUDENT CLUB NIGHT - Live DJs, drinks promotions. Free before 10pm, £4 after. Three Furnaces, Telford

VANILLA - £1 drinks. Free admission. Queen of Clubs Nottingham

EVERY MONDAY

Fabulous

THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

MON 3 MARCH

LIVE CABARET!

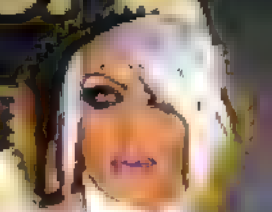
VICKY JACKSON AS PINK

FREE ENTRY B4 11PM

DRINKS FROM £1

9PM-3AM!

C:21



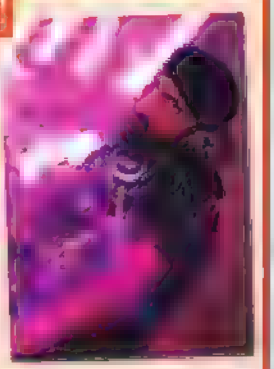
MONDAY 7 APRIL

LIVE CABARET!

MARTY

C-21 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE. TEL: 01743 271821 WWW.C21SHREWSBURY.CO.UK

Sidewalk hosting a St Paddy's Big Weekender!



St Paddy's Day is always a big celebration in Birmingham - from the colourful parade through the streets to the Guinness-fuelled parties that take place in venues across the city. One of those venues is Sidewalk, which is this year providing three nights of fun to celebrate the occasion, with free entry and music from DJ Kam all weekend long, not to mention some cracking drinks offers! The St Paddy's Day Weekender takes place on Thurs 13 Fri 14/Sat 15 March. Sidewalk - Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

DJ DAN GOES BACK TO THE 1990s!

Join DJ Dan every Thursday night at popular Birmingham gay venue Eden Bar on Sherlock Street. Here, you'll find an awesome selection of tracks that were HUGE in the 1990s, some of which still fill the dancefloors of today!

Eden - Birmingham

BACK TO THE 90S - with DJ Dan. Open from 6pm. Eden Bar

BOMBZAI - £1.20 Bombs - 10 to choose from. Selected drinks from £1.50. DJ Mykee taking you through to the early hours. Missing Bar

DJ DEANO - On the decks. Happy Hour midnight - 2am. The Village Inn

DROP THE BOMB - With DJ Kam. Bombs from £1.50. Sidewalk

MARTY GOES MAD AT THE VILLAGE INN

If you fancy a night of fun and games on a Thursday, stop by The Village Inn and see Marty! Not only are there games aplenty, she'll also be taking to the stage to sing some of her favourite songs. Happy Hour runs till 2am!

The Village Inn - Birmingham

MARTY'S MADHOUSE - Songs, Games and Happy Hour until 2am. With Miss Marty and DJ Deano. The Village Inn

PADDY BIG WEEKENDER - *Thurs Fri Sat 13,14,15 Mar* - Free admission. Drink offers, DJs all night. Sidewalk

PARTY POP - Poptastic tunage with DJ Marcus. Bar Jester

POUNDED - £5 entry. Drinks from £1. DJ Corey playing chart, dance and urban on Ground Floor, Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese you could ask for on the middle floor. Drinks from £1. Nightingale Club

GIRL THING - Open late. Drinks from £1. The Fox

SKINT - Brum's new urban night. Every Thursday 10pm late. Club DV8

WEST MIDLANDS

TASTE THE RAINBOW IN STOKE-ON-TRENT

If you're in Stoke, stop by The Factory for a free-entry evening of £1-all-night drinks in the company of DJ Skittle.

The Factory - Stoke-On-Trent

TASTE THE RAINBOW - with DJ Skittle. Karaoke and drinks from £1. 7pm - Late. Free admission all night. The Factory, Stoke on Trent

[illegible] with Disco Diva Cara [illegible] mid night & 1am Dus Gaz & Mikey through [illegible] am. The White Hart Wolverhampton

CAMP KARAOKE [illegible] and cabaret with Jayne von Camp. Three Furnaces Telford

CLUB KARAOKE with DJ Zac. The Lion Walsall

GET OUT with Dj Teejay. The Bell Stourbridge

KARAOKE NIGHT Free admission hosted by Foxy Divine. Pink Stoke on Trent

POP 69! 9pm-5am. Drinks from [illegible]st 69p [illegible] 2am. [illegible] £1 [illegible] Choose With Dus Scotts B Josh [illegible] & Aaron C. Gorgeous Wolverhampton

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open from 2pm til 2am for a quiet drink in a friendly atmosphere. The Boston Northampton

THE UK'S BIGGEST THURSDAY NIGHT OUT

pounded

CARLSBERG BOTTLES £1	K2 BOTTLES £1
SOURZ SHOTS £1	GALEBOMBZ £1
4 HOUSE SPIRIT AND MIXER £5	
JAGERBOMB £1.50	SAMBUCA £1.50
SNAKEBITE £2.50	STRONGBOW £2.50
CARLING £2.50	3 WKD BLUE £5
COCKTAIL PITCHER 2 PINTS	WOO WOO CHEEKY VIMTO SEX ON THE BEACH £5

EVERY THURSDAY

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THENIGHTINGALECLUB

nightingale

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **The Loft Lounge**

IT'S A BIG GAY FRIDAY AT MISSING

Missing Bar in Birmingham is on a mission to turn Friday night into the gayest night in the city. Join DJ James for Big Gay Fridays, when he'll be playing party anthems through till the early hours. It's a great night, so why not pop by?

BIG GAY FRIDAY - Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours. **Missing Bar**

THE MIDLANDS ZONE PRIDE BALL - *Fri 28 Mar* - A glittering night of entertainment. contact: ryan@midlandszone.co.uk or call 01743 281722 to book tickets. **The ICC**

DISCO & KARAOKE - with DJ Nikki. **Eden Bar**

FREAKY FRIDAY - with DJ Lotty. Big name cabaret at midnight. 4am bar. *Fri 7 Mar* - La Voix. *Fri 14 Mar* - Drag With No Name. *Fri 21 Mar* - Lola Lasagne. *Fri 28 Mar* - Sandra. **The Village Inn**

FRIDAY FRENZY - R&B and floor fillers until 4am. **Sidewalk**

GET INFUSED AT THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DJ Corey takes to the decks every Friday night at Birmingham gay superclub The Nightingale, playing absolute anthems and fantastic floor-fillers. It's £2 admission, and drinks start at just £2 all night long!

INFUSION - Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2. **Nightingale Club**

KICK START - Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James. **Missing Bar**

A NIGHT FOR THE TRANS* COMMUNITY

The first Friday of every month (Fri 7 Mar) sees Lip Gloss taking place at Birmingham's Eden Bar. The event celebrates all things trans* and welcomes their admirers and friends. It's just £3 admission and runs from 9pm till 2am!

LIP GLOSS - *Fri 7 Mar* - with host Trisha. Every first Friday of the month. A night for the Trans community (friends welcome) 9pm-2am £3 admission. Plus Stripper Stallion. **Eden Bar**

MIDSBEARS - *Fri 21 Mar* - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers. **Eden Bar**

PADDY BIG WEEKENDER - *Fri Sat 14 15 Mar* - Free admission. Drink offers, DJs all night. **Sidewalk**

PRIDE BALL AFTER PARTY - *Fri 28 Mar* - Party the night away after the ball. **Eden Bar**

RETRO FRIDAY - Retro tunes with DJ Matt. **Bar Jester**

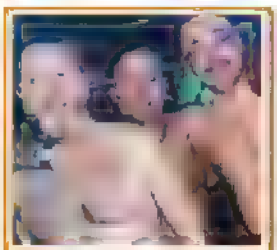
SING STAR SUPERSTAR - with DJ Nikki every Friday - your chance to win cash! **Eden Bar**

VINTAGE FRIDAYS - a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites. **The Loft Lounge**

XXL PRE-BAR - *Fri 21 Mar* - Official pre-bar for XXL. Monthly meet up for the Midlands Bears. **Eden Bar**

[illegible]

Following on from our glitzy Pride Ball on Friday 28 March at the International Convention Centre, the kind folks at popular gay venue Eden are throwing their very own after-party!
Even if you can't make the Ball, there's nothing stopping you from heading along to the popular Sherlock Street venue. It's free admission and there's always a great atmosphere. We'll see you there!



XXL MEN-ONLY NIGHT RETURNS!

One of the Midlands' biggest Friday evening events is popular men-only night XXL. Taking place on the third Friday of every month (Fri 21 Mar), it features DJ Christian M and a great bunch of guys.

XXL - *Fri 21 Mar* - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Every 3rd Friday of each month. **The Core Club**

BOLLYWOOD NIGHTS Every last Friday monthly. Club DV8

FUNK'D UP - (alternate Saturdays) Uplifting funky, vocal house. 11pm til 6am. £5 til 2am £8 after. Club Chic

KARAOKE - Come and have a sing to start your weekend. **The Fox**

RUDIMENTAL - *Fri 28 Mar* - DJ line-up includes Thomas Jules Carlton Shaw, Ric James. Club Chic

SO IT GOES - (alternate Saturdays) Club Chic

DIVINA DE CAMPO - (Downstairs) Quiz Night with £20 drinks vouchers to be won, plus Play Your Cards Right with cash prizes. (Upstairs) Dirty Pop with DJ Ibbs & DJ Destiny. 7pm-4am. **The Factory, Stoke-on-Trent**

TV PARTY NIGHT - A Men's Night for TVs, Cross Dressers and Admirers. Every Friday night at **The Greenhouse, Darlaston**

[illegible] - with DJ Shawn and DJ Dave. 8pm-4am. **The White Hart Wolverhampton**

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos until 9.45. Free entry before 10pm. **The Three Furnaces Telford**

CLUB FRIDAY - with DJ Zac. **The Lion, Walsall**

FRIDAY SOCIAL - with DJ Paul Griff & guests. **The Bell Stourbridge**

[illegible] - 1st Fri monthly. Drinks from £1 until midnight, with resident DJs Gorgeous Club, **Wolverhampton**

PARTY NIGHT - with DJ Laura. All your favourites from the 70's, 80's, 90's and 00's. **Rainbows Coventry**

START THE WEEKEND - Free admission before 11pm. Tanya Hyde's cabaret show from 9pm. **Pink, Stoke on Trent**

TFI FRIDAY - A fun and funky mixture of 70s, high energy through to current chart. **Brewery Tap, Worcester**

CABARET NIGHT - every Friday night from 11pm. **Dover Castle, Leicester**

CLUB NIGHT - with DJ Rob Lambeth from midnight playing chart toppers. **Helsinki, Leicester**

KARAOKE - 8-12pm. £1 drinks (happy hour @ midnight). Free admission. **Queen of Clubs Nottingham**

LIPSTIQUE - With DJ Ash playing old skool camp classics. Every 2nd,3th & 4th Friday monthly. **Curzons Derby**

PINK POUNDER - DJ Clia playing the best pop, dance, chart and RnB. £8 entry and £1 drinks!. Open 9pm-4am. **The Boston, Northampton**

[illegible] - Free admission before 11pm (all night for students). BOGOF on selected drinks. Poptastic every last friday monthly. **NG1 Nottingham**

[illegible]

If you're a fan of live entertainment, head along to The Village Inn on Hurst Street. Each and every Friday they have a different cabaret act taking to the stage to provide plenty of fun and laughter. This month sees La Voix (Fri 7 Mar), The Drag With No Name (Fri 14 Mar), Lola Lasagne (Fri 21 Mar) and - as usual, wrapping up the month - Sandra - the whore from Hampstead Heath (Fri 28 Mar). Stop by for a giggle!

XXL BIRMINGHAM

3RD FRIDAY EVERY MONTH
9PM - 3AM
THE CORE
135 SHERLOCK ST, BIRMINGHAM

WWW.APPXXL.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/XXLLONDON

BIRMINGHAM

6TH BIRTHDAY PARTY - *Sat 29 Mar* - Join in the celebrations with Lady Imelda and La Voix. **Eden Bar**

THE ATTIC - Available for hire. Call the venue for more info - 0121 622 4256. **Missing Bar**

BACK TO THE 80S - 2am - 4am. **Eden Bar**

BEARBRUM RETURNS TO EDEN

If you're a bear, a friend, admirer or supporter, then head down to Eden in Birmingham for BearBrum on Saturday 8 March. It's a night of free food and great music in the company of likeminded people.

Eden - Birmingham

BEARBRUM - *Sat 8 Mar* Free food. With DJ Yogi. In association with Mids Bears. Fetish theme. **Eden Bar**

IT'S THE BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT!

Birmingham's ever-popular Village Inn hosts The Big Saturday Night Out over two floors, with DJs Lotty, Richard Moon and Tonie. It's one of the best parties around!

The Village Inn - Birmingham

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - Over 2 floors, 3 DJs. Open til 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonie in The Village Underground. **The Village Inn**

BIG SATURGAY NIGHT OUT - Every Saturday, with loads of drinks promotions. **Nightingale Club**

CHART HITS - with DJ Dan 9pm, from 2am it's back to the 80s with cheap drink promotions. **Eden Bar**

CULT - Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm. **Nightingale Club**

#JUST SAYING SATURDAYS WITH MATT

Join DJ Matt every Saturday night for #JustSaying Saturdays. He plays the biggest hits all night long and into the early hours. Think you can manage a 6am finish? Well find out here!

Bar Jester - Birmingham

JUST SAYING - with DJ Matt. **Bar Jester**

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS - in The Attic, plus music from across the decades. **Missing Bar**

L8R - With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 8am every Saturday. **The Village Inn**

PADDY BIG WEEKENDER - *Sat 15 Mar* - Free admission. Drink offers, DJs all night. **Sidewalk**

SATURS-FACTION - With DJ Kam. Sidewalk Slammers and drink promos. **Sidewalk**

WE <3 SATURDAYS - with DJ Mykee playing the best party tunes. Featuring Twiggy and sexy Shane on his stilts. Open until 4am. **Missing Bar**

SIDEWALK THROWS A WHITE PARTY!

Saturday 29 March sees Brum's popular Sidewalk bar throwing its very own White Party. Wear white, turn up and have a great time - simples! There are top drinks offers and DJs all night long too! Boom!

Sidewalk - Birmingham

WE LOVE POP - *Sat 29 Mar* - Big DJ Line up includes; Lisa Sharred, Wayne H, Corey, Simon H, Simon B, Craig N, plus James Barr. **Nightingale Club**

WHITE PARTY - *Sat 29 Mar* Free admission. Drinks offers DJs all night. Wear something white. **Sidewalk**

THE BREAKFAST CLUB Every Saturday. The ultimate monthly Night Out with Dos Bears, Ron, Wayne B and Scotty. Uplifting funky vocal house, acid house and speed garage. Free before 12am. £12 guest, £10 members, £6 st. Jerry's Club Chic

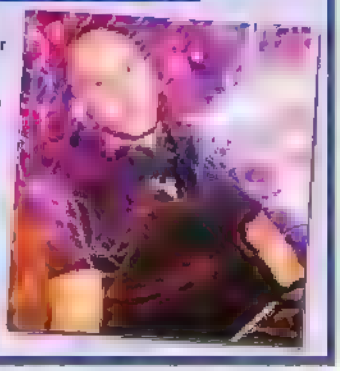
DJ NIKKI 1st Sat monthly. Equator Bar

DJ PARTY NIGHT Open from 8pm. The Fox

KARAOKE Every Sat night. The Wellington

The Nightingale takes on London's We Love Pop!

To wrap up the month of March (Sat 29 Mar), popular gay superclub The Nightingale is hosting London club night We Love Pop. Expect huge tunes dropped from a huge line-up of DJs, including Fascination DJs, Chart Show TV DJs, James Barr, Lisa Sharred, Wayne H, Corey, Simon H, Simon Baker and Craig N. It's set to be massive, so don't miss out or you'll regret it!



The Nightingale - Birmingham

WEST MIDLANDS

THE DRAG WITH NO NAME IN STOKE

There's a treat in store for Factory-goers in Stoke this month as Brighton's Drag With No Name heads up north to entertain the crowds on Saturday 15 March. If you've not seen her show, pop down!

The Factory - Stoke-on-Trent

PRODUCTION & CORRUPTION - Production with Divina De Campo (main room). Upstairs for Corruption with DJ Destiny 1st Sat every month - Casa De Casa House Night with Destiny and DJ Jon. *Sat 15 Mar* - Drag With No Name. **The Factory, Stoke on Trent**

BIG ROCKET OUT Big Dos top tunes 4pm-3.30am. The Lion Walsall

CAMP & SLAG 9pm-6am. Drinks from £1.50 until midnight. DJ Phil Gardiner 2-3.30am then Slag residents until sunrise. Gorgeous Wolverhampton

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos all £4b. Free entry before 10pm. The Three Furnaces Telford

FLOORFILLERS - with Dj Andrew Smith. Rainbows Coventry

INCLUSION with big name Birmingham & UK DJs every week. The Bell Stourbridge

LIVE CABARET With Dos Gaz and Mikey T 11.5am. The White Hart Wolverhampton

LIVING JOY *Sun 1 Mar* Performing the hit chart topping hits Dreamer & Don't Stop Moving. Part of the venues 2nd Birthday Ball. The Lion Walsall

NOT TO MISS Free admission before 11pm. Tanya Hydes cabaret, show 9pm. Park Stoke on Trent

EAST MIDLANDS

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - 10.40-6.30am. 3 Dos. Free admission before midnight, student discounts. NG1 Nottingham

BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT 10pm-6am. Free entry before 11pm, £3 before 1am and £5 after. The Boston Northampton

CLUB NIGHT With DJ Nik B playing floorfillers and chart bangers from midnight. Free entry before midnight, £6 after. Hedonism Leicester

DOGGY STYLE Every 3rd Saturday monthly. Curzons Derby

POP TARTS 2 DJs on rotation. Open 9pm-3am. Queen of Clubs Nottingham

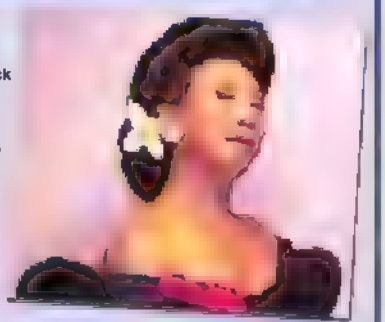
SATURGAY Camp tunes all the way through to 2am. Dover Castle Leicester

S O S With resident drag queens Jackie Dee & Etta Cockwell. Every 4th Saturday monthly. Curzons Derby

Birmingham's Eden Bar celebrates its sixth birthday!

Saturday 29 March sees award-winning Eden Bar on Birmingham's Sherlock Street celebrating its sixth birthday - and owners Garry & Cal have got a great party planned, with live entertainment coming from Lady Imelda and La Voix.

A very happy birthday from all at Midlands Zone!



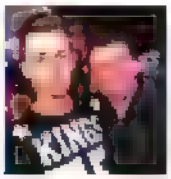
Eden - Birmingham

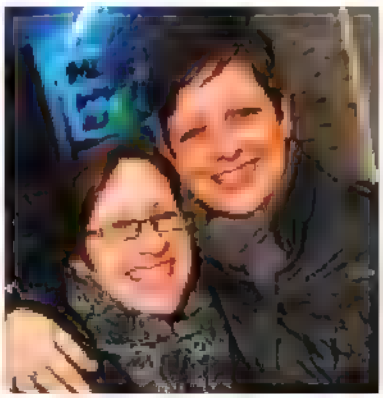
Equator's a great place for a pint and a chat

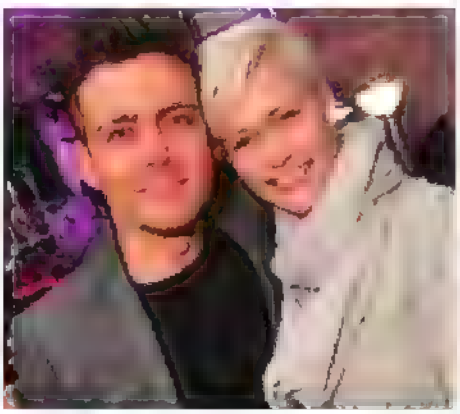
If you're looking for a top place to grab a drink with friends and enjoy great company on a night out, then look no further than Birmingham's Equator Bar.

Pop in and say hi to Debbie Pardoe and her team - they'll always ensure you're well looked after!

If you've never been in before get along there asap - it's a great venue in which to kick-start your night out before heading off around the rest of the gay village!







Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

BIRMINGHAM

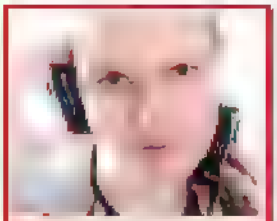
2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki. Every Sunday Eden Bar

KARAOKE from 8pm. Sidewalk

MISSING PRESENTS - Cabaret every Sunday hosted by one of their fabulous drag queens. Missing Bar

MOTHERS DAY MEAL - *Sun 30 Mar* 2 courses £19.95. 3 courses £24.95. Includes a glass of Prosecco. The Loft Lounge



SUNDAY SESSION WITH MILLS & DEANO!

Mrs Mills and DJ Deano host Sunday Session every, er, Sunday! A night of music and bingo from 7pm, it's a fun way to wrap up your weekend.

The Village Inn - Birmingham

ST PADDY'S ALL DAY SPECIAL - with Kim Myles 'We Got A Love' & 'Give it To Me' Afterparty at the Nightingale from 11pm. RSVP & Nightingale Club

SUNDAY BREAKFAST - The perfect hangover cure from 9am. Just £7.95. Carvery from 12noon for just £9.95. The Loft Lounge

SUNDAY FUNDAY AT THE JESTER!

Just because it's Sunday, don't think it's time to stop partying! If you're looking for a night of clubbing, go see Baby G at Bar Jester in Birmingham for Sunday Funday. A great night out to end the week!

Bar Jester - Birmingham

SUNDAY IS FUNDAY - with Baby G. Bar Jester

SUNDAY LOUNGE - Karaoke & monthly quiz. Sidewalk

SUNDAY SESSION - with Mrs Mills and DJ Deano. Plus Bingo with Mrs Mills from 7pm The Village Inn

CHILLAX - Look out for the special Sunday promotions. Open 3pm-late The Fox

SUNDAY SERVICE - *Sun 30 Mar* - Reun on Party. With DJ Chad Lewis Club DV8

Treat Mum this Mother's Day at The Loft Lounge

You only get one mum, so why not treat her to a fabulous meal out at The Loft Lounge in Birmingham this Mothering Sunday (30 March)?
They've got a great menu, with two courses costing just £19.95 and three courses £24.95 - and a glass of Prosecco with [illegible]!
Go on, spoil her for once!

The Loft Lounge - Birmingham

THREE COURSE LUNCH only £7.50 The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

MUM'S THE WORD IN SHREWSBURY!

Sunday 30 March is Mother's Day - a day to thank mum for everything she's done for you. The Peach Tree in Shrewsbury is offering a great two-course meal for £16.50, or three courses for £19.50.

The Peach Tree - Shrewsbury

MUM'S THE WORD - *Sun 30 Mar* Treat your Mum to a delicious Mother's Day Sunday lunch. 2 course £16.50. 3 course £19.50. The Peach Tree, Shrewsbury

SECTIONED SUNDAYS - with DJ Kariko. Karaoke, Disco & Bingo. £20 vouchers to be won. 7pm-1am. Drinks from £1 Free admission all night. The Factory, Stoke on Trent

CHILL OUT - After the party Rainbows, Coventry

CLUB SUNDAY - Free admission selected 2 for 1 drinks From 8pm Bar & Club Wasabi

[illegible] Free admission, hosted by Foxy Divine Pink Suite on Treat

MARTY'S PARTY 9pm-4am Fun & Games Karaoke Prizes and all round mayhem Drinks from £2 Gorgeous Wolverhampton

[illegible] - With DJ Shawn and Gale Force Open till 4am The White Hart Wolverhampton

[illegible] Open 7pm-2am with drink promos Three Furnaces Telford

SUNDAY ROAST Served from 2pm The White Hart Wolverhampton

EAST MIDLANDS

[illegible] Brunch for £5 with unlimited soft drinks, midday 3pm Rainbow & Dove Leicester

[illegible] Every Sunday, 10.30pm Queen of Clubs Nottingham

KARAOKE WITH JOEYOKE 9pm-2am £6 cocktail pitchers with free entry all night The Boston, Northampton

[illegible] & CABARET From 5pm bringing you a combination of Gay Bingo, Play Your Cards Right and Cabaret Dover Castle Leicester

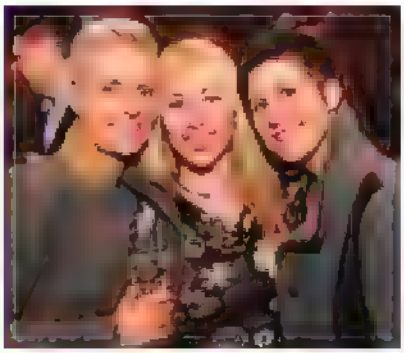
Mum's the word!
Mother's Day
Sunday 30th March 2014
2 Course £16.50 3 Course £19.50
Treat your mum to a delicious Mother's Day Sunday Lunch at The Peach Tree
The Peach Tree
18-21 Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE

Have a sing-song with DJ Nikki at Brum's Eden Bar

If you don't want your weekend to end, pop down to Birmingham's Eden Bar for a night of karaoke and disco fun with DJ Nikki. Every Sunday night, why not grab a mic, sing a song, have a dance and get merry with your mates. Is there any better way to spend a Sunday? And let's face it, it's certainly better than sitting in front of the telly waiting for Monday morning to arrive!

Eden - Birmingham

The Loft Lounge provides a lively start to your night!



One of Birmingham's most popular venues for a night out in the gay village is The Loft Lounge.

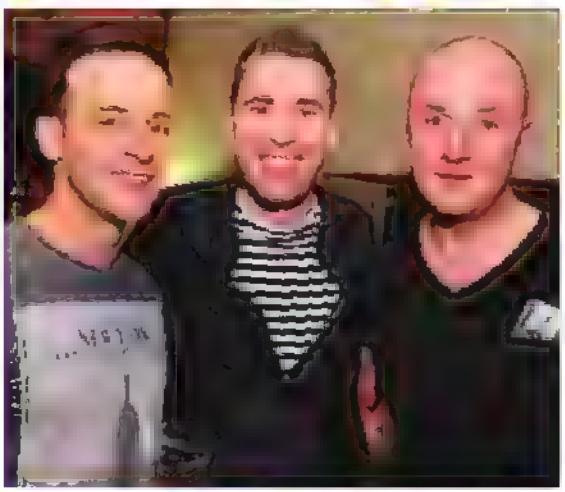
Offering a unique atmosphere at the heart of the city's gay scene The Loft Lounge provides a great space in which to kick off your night out in real style.

Whether you're stopping by for a delicious three-course meal from the succulent menu or just dropping in for a cocktail, a glass of wine or a beer, you certainly won't be disappointed.

Relax with chilled-out music from popular DJ Simon Baker, who'll get you in the mood for the night ahead.

And if you're a smoker, be sure to check out The Loft's beautiful beer garden to the rear of the venue.

For more information about The Loft Lounge or to book a table visit its website at ***www.theloftlounge.co.uk*** *or call 0121 622 2444.*



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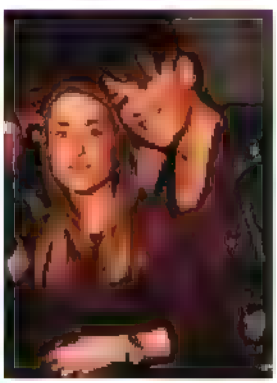
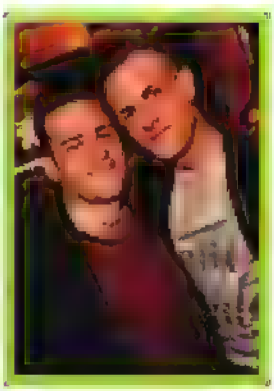
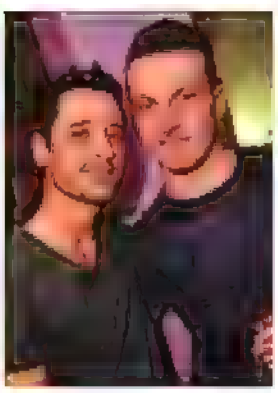






Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

LET US ENT

The Village Inn :: BIRMINGHAM'S No.1

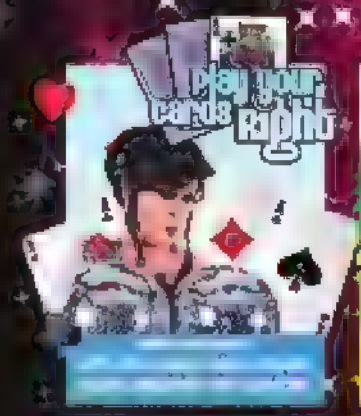
Friday 07

La Voix

2013 Drag Idol Winner

Friday 14

Drag with no name



HAPPY HOUR

3 CHANCES TO WIN

The Village Inn

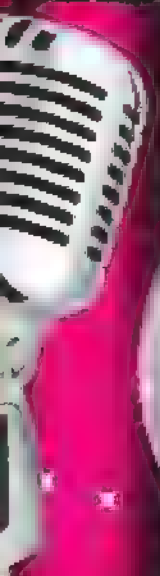
CASH JACKPOTS

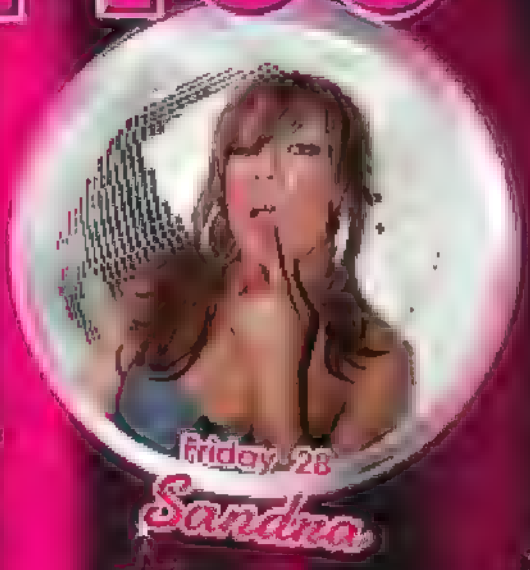
Jacky Tuesdays

12PM - 10PM
SUN- WEDNESDAY
12PM - 2PM
THURSDAY NIGHT
12PM - 8PM
FRIDAY NIGHT

ERTAIN YOU

CABARET VENUE AS VOTED BY YOU!





VILLAGE INN BIRMINGHAM

OPEN 7 DAYS
A WEEK :
12 PM - TILL LATE

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VILLAGEINNBIRMINGHAM

The Village Inn

0121 622 4742
152 HURST STREET BIRMINGHAM B5 6RY
WWW.VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM.CO.UK

Twerking with Twiggy at Brum's **Missing**!

As one of Birmingham's most popular gay party venues, Missing is a great place to visit - and to work!

Each and every Saturday, the staff are delighted to see their hard work rewarded, with a great crowd of high-energy party-goers throwing shapes on the dancefloor, laughing with their mates and generally having a brilliant time.

So be sure to join venue host Twiggy and a top selection of resident DJs - including Mykee, who provides a great soundtrack for the night ahead.

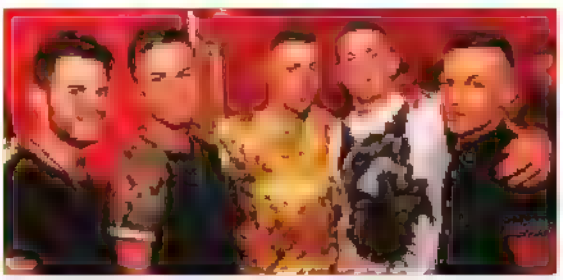
Meanwhile, upstairs in The Attic, you can enjoy karaoke and cocktails all night long.

If you're not around at the weekend, fear not - Missing also provides a great line-up of events during the week.

There are £1 drinks on Mondays, karaoke on Tuesdays, cheap drinks on Wednesdays, £1.20 bombs on Thursdays, '80s and '90s hits on Fridays and cabaret every Sunday.

So pop in one night to see David, Patsy and the rest of the Missing crew - they'll make sure you have a great time, no matter what day of the week it is!

For more information visit www.missingbar.co.uk.



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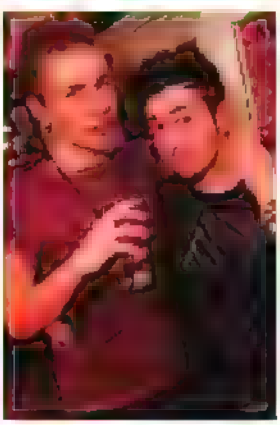
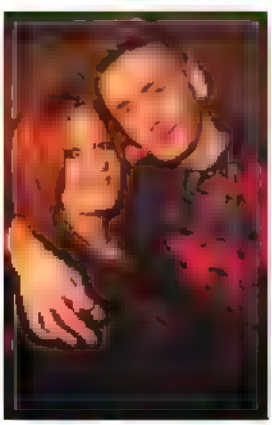




Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Missing

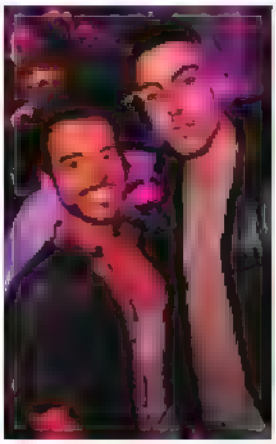
...be part of the party

A slice of San Francisco style at Brum's **Sidewalk**

When you next visit Birmingham's gay village for a big night out, be sure to stop off at the award-winning Sidewalk bar on Hurst Street.

With a style inspired by the hip streets of San Francisco, Sidewalk has recently undergone some minor refurbishment work – so be sure to pop in and take a look. There are plenty of top drinks offers available each and every day, so it's a great place to head for if you're on a tight budget. Oh, and if you're hungry, they've got a mouthwatering food menu too!

For more information about Sidewalk, pop online and visit ***sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk*** *or call 0121 666 6220.*



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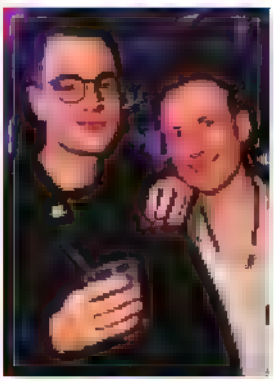
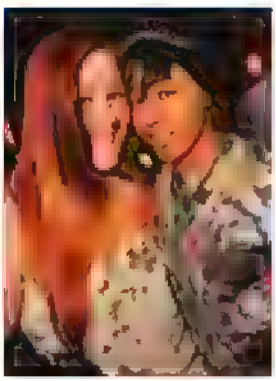
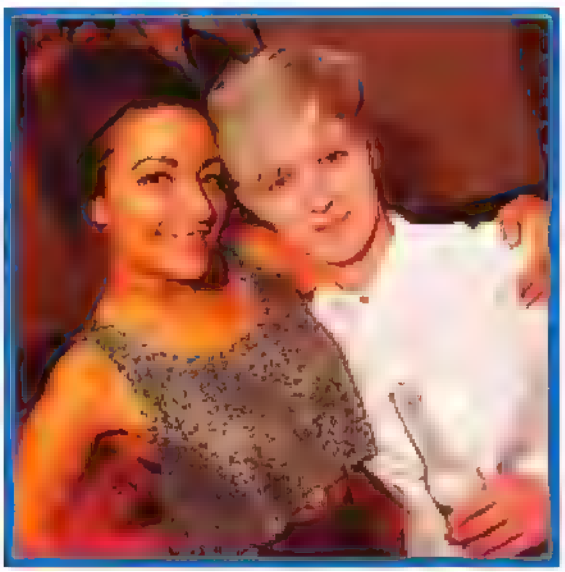
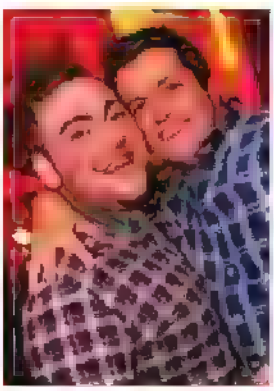
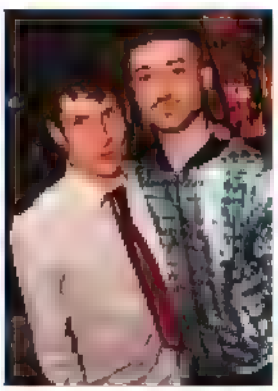
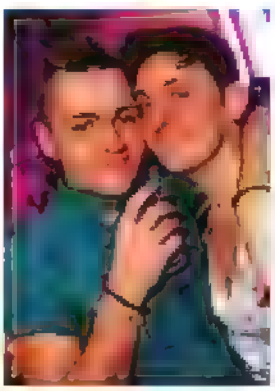




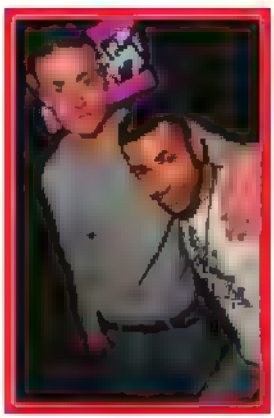


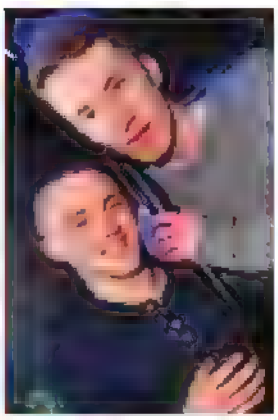


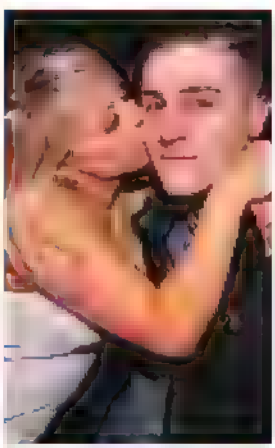


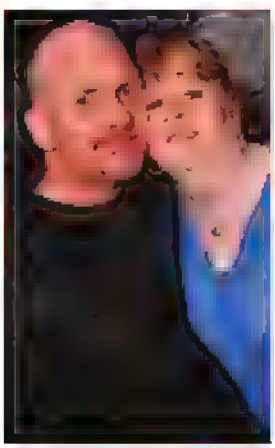


Pictures by **Laura Byrne**









Bar Jester: The place to party until the early hours

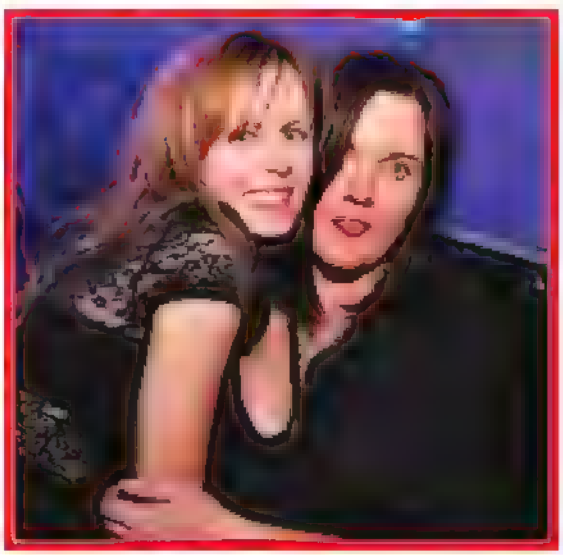
Enthusiastic staff and a buzzing atmosphere are an absolute guarantee at Bar Jester, a top venue located on the outskirts of Birmingham's gay village

One of the city's oldest gay bars, The Jester has a loyal customer base that takes full advantage of its late-night opening hours, partying on through until daybreak. Think about it, you could walk out of the Jester and straight into work. Not that we'd advise you to do that, of course, but it's certainly an option!

Bar Jester's open every Saturday until 6am, and features some of the best floor-filling anthems on the circuit. DJ Matt certainly knows how to work the crowd with a fabulous set, providing punters with a memorable end to their big night of partying

If you're looking for cheap drinks, the venue offers four Jagerbombs for just £10 and runs happy hour until 2am If you drink beer or alcopops you get four for a tenner, and you can get three bottles of cider for £10 too!

For more information about Bar Jester, and to see what's on, visit ***www.barjester.co.uk*** *or call* ***0121 643 8344****.*



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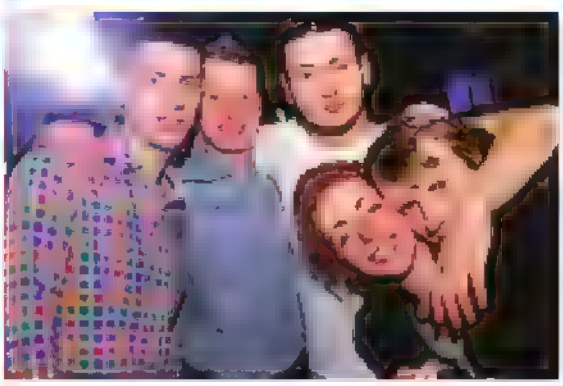


Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Eden proves popular with the men of the Midlands!

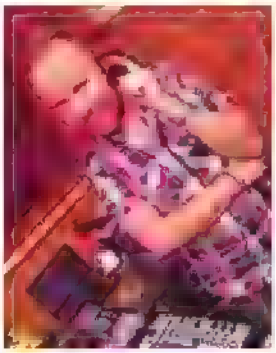
Nominated for a staggering fifteen awards in this year's Midlands Zone Readers' Awards, it's no wonder Eden is one of Birmingham's most popular gay venues!

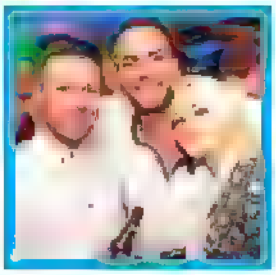
Drawing men from across the Midlands, Eden is different from the city's other gay venues. With its dark-panelled wood walls, ambient lighting and comfortable Chesterfield sofas, it replicates the look of a sophisticated men's club. Of course women are welcome to enjoy the experience too!

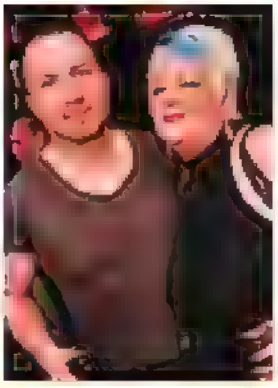
Join DJ Dan on a Saturday for an evening of top hits - from cheese and pop to dance and the best commercial tracks. The dance floor may be small but it's definitely the place to be with the right tracks playing!

Find out in the next issue of Zone if Eden walks away with any of those fifteen nominations!

*Visit **www.theedenbar.co.uk** now for more information!*







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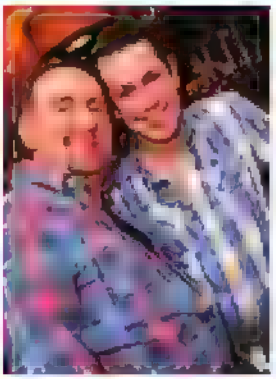

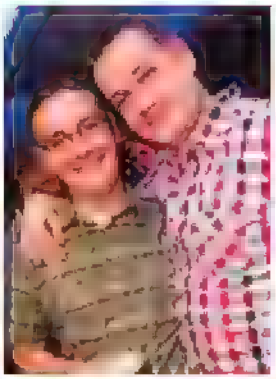

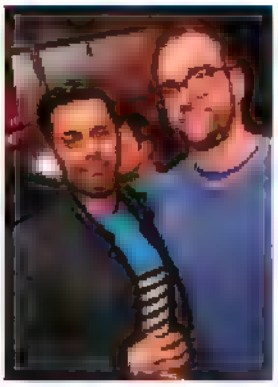

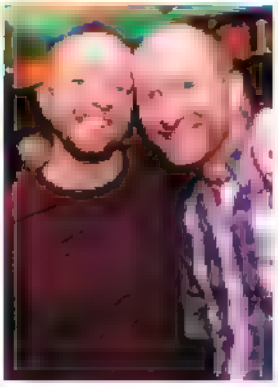

Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

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Happy Hour from 3pm

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SATURDAY CHART HITS WITH DJ DAN

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FROM 2AM TIL 4AM
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From 2am Until 4am
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Great nights guaranteed at **The Village Inn** in Brum!

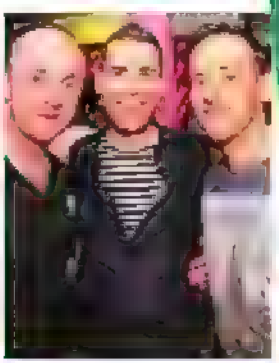
Out in Birmingham's gay village for a weekend of fun, laughter and drunken antics? Then you might want to stop off at The Village Inn on Hurst Street.

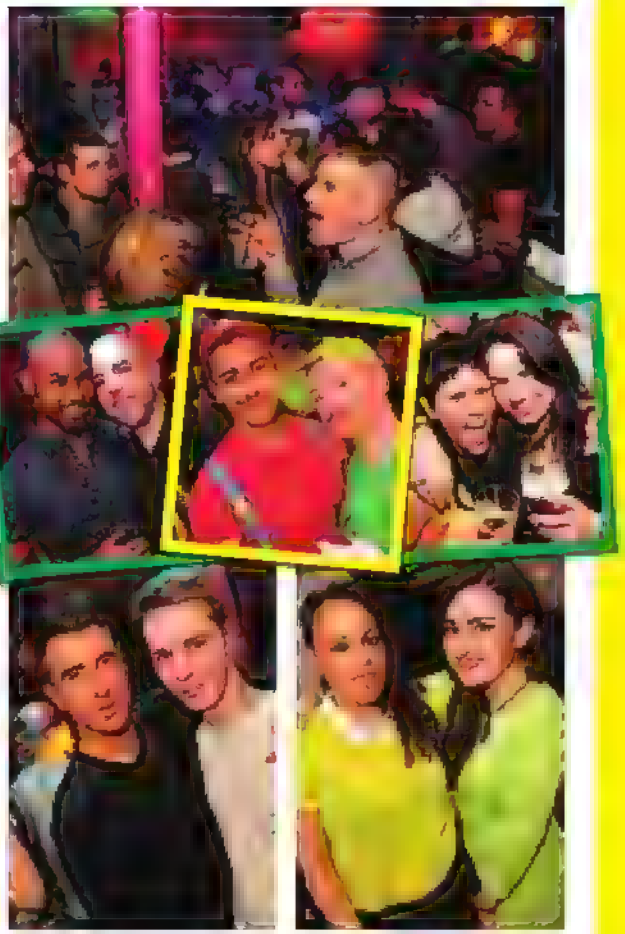
If you're after a fun-filled night with a couple of drag queens, great DJs, a buzzing atmosphere, decent drinks prices and a bar closing-time of 8am, The Village is definitely the place to head for!

Join DJs Lotty and Richard Moon every Saturday night for an eclectic mix of tracks that range from pop and dance to cheese and R n'B, with a bit of commercial thrown in for good measure.

We're pretty sure you won't be disappointed - especially as it's free entry all night long.

For more information about The Village Inn, visit www.villagebirmingham.co.uk, or give them a call on ***0121 622 4742***





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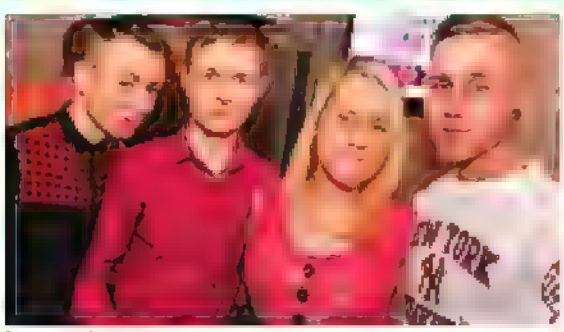
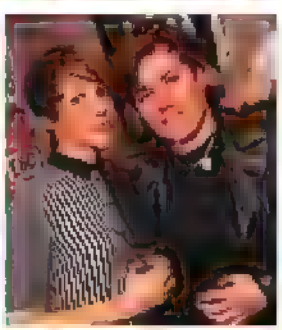




Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Buff boys and gorgeous girls at **The Nightingale**

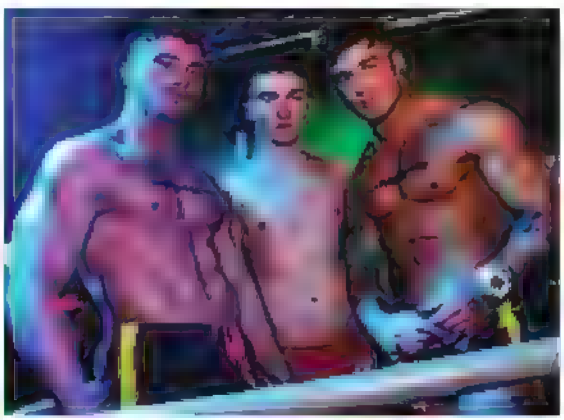
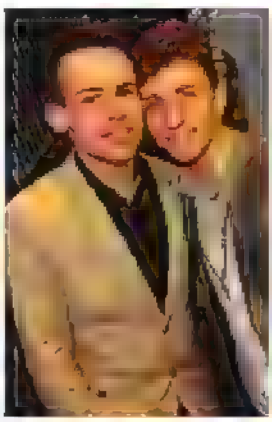
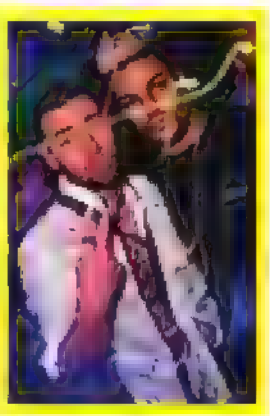
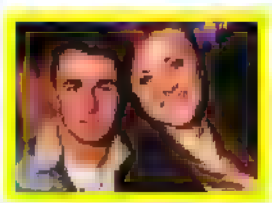
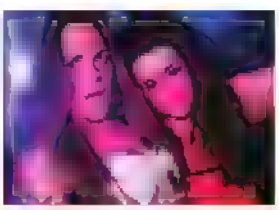
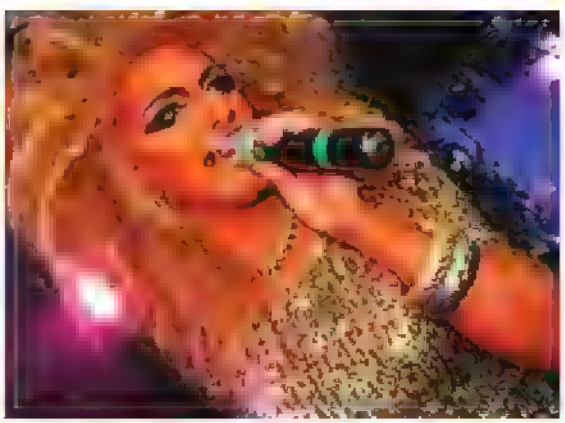
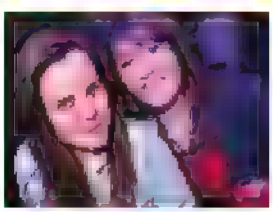
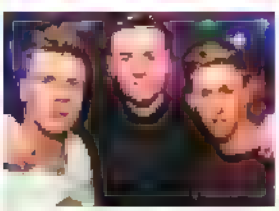
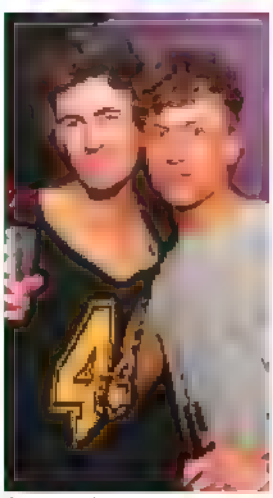
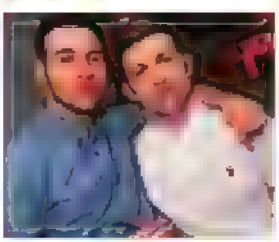
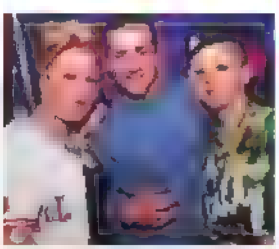
When you're ready to leave the bars and hit the clubs, make sure you head for Birmingham's legendary gay superclub, The Nightingale - you certainly won't be disappointed!

One of the biggest gay nightclubs outside London, the Gale features four rooms of music spread across three floors so there's definitely something for everyone!

If it's chart and commercial dance you're after stick on the bottom floor with a great rosta of DJs across the night. If you love cheesy stuff, head to the middle floor with Marty the girl that likes to party. And if you like your music a bit harder, pop by the top floor or Room Four.

Oh, and be sure to check out the venue's ripped hosts and dancers too! They're buff, and you won't be able to take your eyes off them all night long!

For more information about The Nightingale, visit www.nightingaleclub.co.uk or call 0121 622 1718.

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Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Leicester's **Venom** launches new gay night

Leicester's LGBT community has now got a brand new gay night to enjoy - and it's already proving popular!

Taking place at swanky new nightclub Venom (which used to be Quebec) every Wednesday from 10pm, YOLO is aimed at the city's LGBT students and their friends.

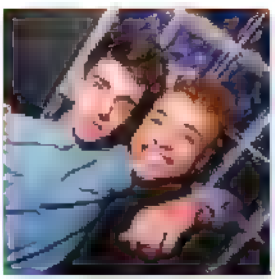
Check it out asap is our advice with veteran DJs Mix Munkies and Richard Moon at the helm, a floor-filling mix of the very best in chart, dance, R'n B, pop and commercial music is an absolute guarantee.

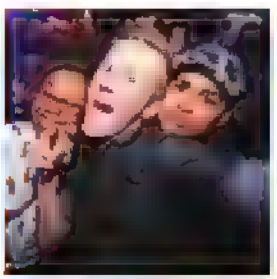
There are also some pretty good drinks offers available if you're on a tight budget - £2.50 vodka and mixer, £2.50 Jagerbombs, three-for-a-fiver a copops, and £15 for bottled beers and two Fishbowls.

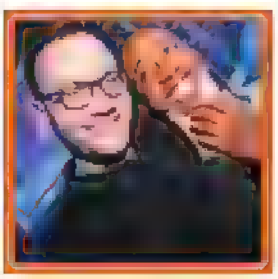
There's more to come at the venue too, with the top floor and a rooftop smoking terrace set to be completed later in 2014.

Venom is located at 94-96 Belgrave Gate, Leicester.

To keep up to date with YOLO at Venom, search for 'YOLO at Venom' on Facebook.







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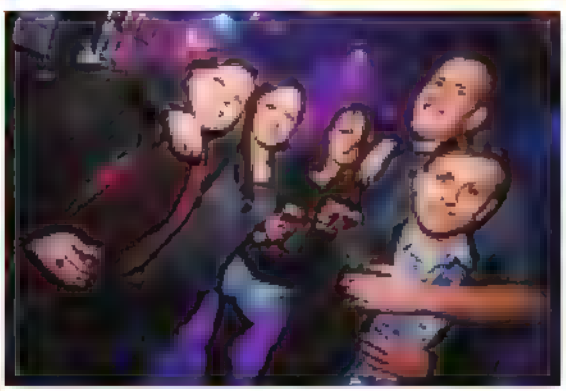

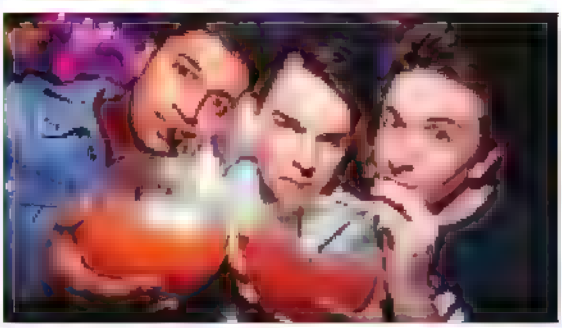

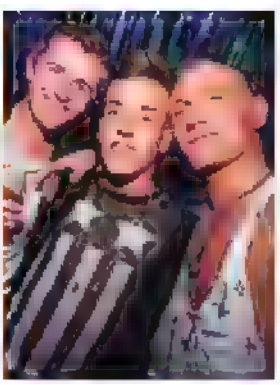

Pictures by **Baz Vaghela Photography**

Birmingham

BAR JESTER
Holloway Circus, B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 643 8344
www.barjester.co.uk
/barjesterbirmingham
See pictures on page 45

BOLTZ CLUB
Lower Essex St B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

CLUB CHIC
28 Horse Fair, B1 1DD
Tel: 0121 666 6606

CLUB DV8
[illegible]

THE CORE
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk
/thecoreclubbirmingham

EDEN BAR
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar
See pictures on page 46

EQUATOR
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

LOFT LOUNGE
142 Bromsgrove St, B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge
See pictures on page 39

MISSING BAR
Hurst St, B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar
See pictures on page 42

THE NIGHTINGALE
Kent St, B'ham B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub
See pictures on page 49

RSVP (formerly Queer Street)
For Exclusive Hire
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 2444

SIDEWALK
Hurst Street, B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 666 6220
www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk
See pictures on page 44

THE VILLAGE INN
Hurst St, B'ham B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham
See pictures on page 48

[illegible]
72 Bristol St, B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

West Midlands

COVENTRY

RAINBOWS
Short St CV1 2LW
Tel: 024 [illegible]

GLOUCESTER

THE WESTGATE
Westgate Street, GL1 2NF
Tel: 01452 690045

KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL EXCHANGE
31 New Road DY10 1AF
Tel: 01562 [illegible]

LEEK

VALIANT
3 Stanley Street ST13 5HG
Tel: 01538 382612

SHREWSBURY

C21 CLUB
Abbey Foregate, SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.c21bar.co.uk
/C21Nightclub

THE PEACH TREE
21 Abbey Foregate
Tel: 01743 355055
www.thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

SPIRIT
22 Abbey Foregate, SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.spiritchampagne.co.uk
/SpiritShrewsbury

STOKE-ON-TRENT

THE FACTORY
67 Bryan St, Hanley, ST1 5AF
www.thefactorystoke.co.uk
/thefactorystoke

PINK
93 Stafford Street
ST1 1LS
Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

THE BELL
20 Market S [illegible] DY8 1AG
Tel: 0 [illegible]

STRATFORD upon AVON

NO7
Prowse Court
1st Floor Property
7 Windsor St
Tel: 0778 [illegible]

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd
Madeley TF7 4JB
Tel: 01952 588521

WALSALL

LION BAR & CLUB
Birchills St WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 610977

THE RED LION
Park St WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 637790

WOLVERHAMPTON

GORGEOUS CLUB
School St WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247

THE WHITE HART
[illegible]

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB
Angel Row, WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

East Midlands

DERBY

THE BAR
East St (above Castle & Falcon) Tel: 07514 230867

THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

CURZONS
25 Curzon St DE1 1LH
Tel: 01332 363739

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE
34 Dover St LE1 6PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
185 Charles St LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

SLOANES
3-5 New Walk, LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

[illegible]
YOLO Ga, every Wed
Belgrave Gate LE1 3GR
Tel: 0116 251 7986

MANSFIELD

CHEEKY MONKEY
Leeming St NG18 1NG
Tel: 01623 633330

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON
College St NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS
St Ann's St, NG1 3LX
Tel: 0115 958 3432

THE NEWMARKET INN
38 Lower Parliament Street NG1 3BA Gay Friendly

NG1 CLUB
76-80 Lower Parliament St NG1 1EH
Tel: 0115 958 8440

PROPAGANDA
8 Broadway NG1 1PS

QUEEN OF CLUBS
47 Heathcote Street NG1 3AG Tel: [illegible] 391027

BIRMINGHAM VENUES

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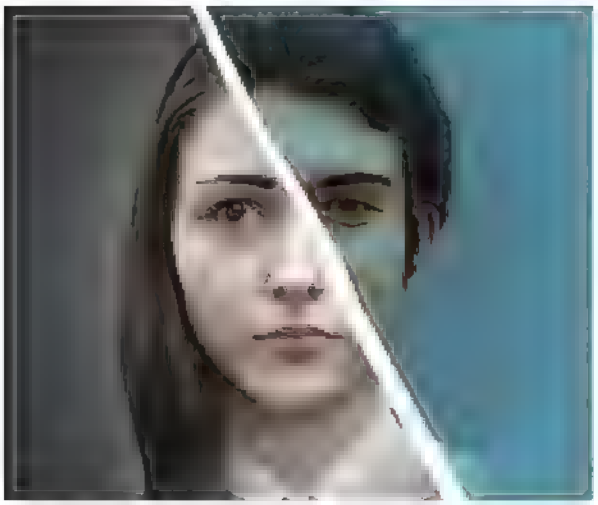
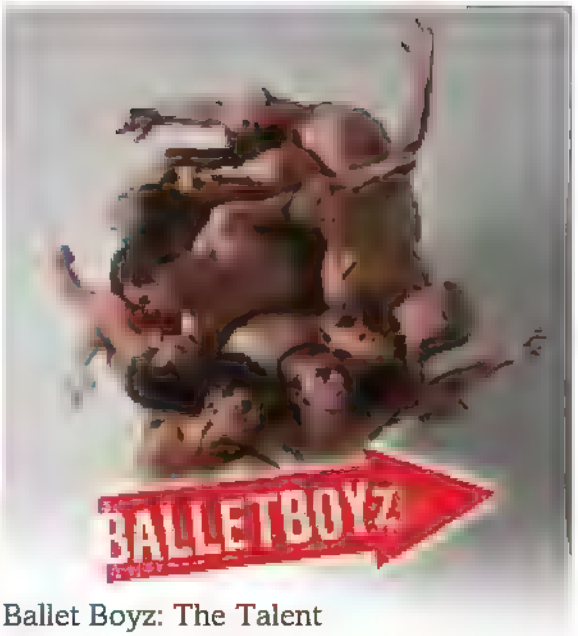


Pronoun

Isabella can no longer tolerate the experience of being a boy trapped in a girl s body. and decides it s finally time to take action. But how does this decision affect not only him, but also his family, friends and those around him? A love story about transition, testosterone and James Dean, Pronoun is presented by the Belgrade Youth Theatre as part of National Theatre Connections 2014

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 March



Ballet Boyz: The Talent

Following triumphant UK and international appearances on stage and screen, this phenomenally popular company featuring 10 exceptional young dancers presents an exhilarating evening of exciting and explosive dance. the TALENT features two stunning dance pieces by internationally celebrated choreographers Russell Maliphant and Liam Scarlett.

BalletBoyz is one of the most cheekily original and innovative forces in modern dance. Led by former Royal Ballet lead dancers Michael Nunn and William Trevitt, the company thrills audiences and critics the world over with its distinctive style, fusing spectacular dance both energetic and graceful, with stunning music and film

Nottingham Playhouse, Mon 31 March

Jack Whitehall

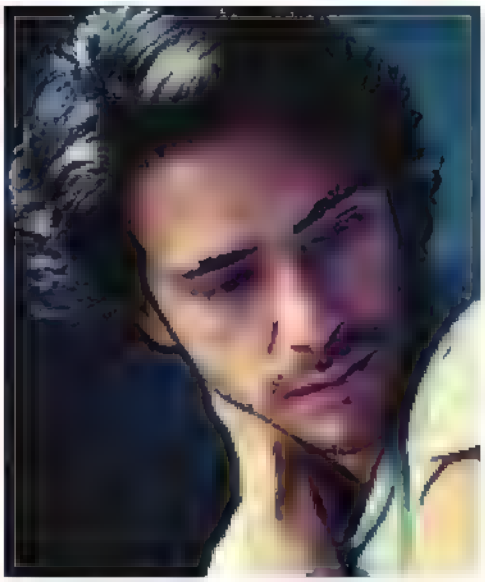
A fella who s had no trouble whatsoever getting his boat race on the goggle-box, Jack Whitehall s highly animated style of delivery is developing all the time - as is his repertoire of material, which regularly includes such subject matter as his father s shameless attempts to get quoted in his show, his comical schooldays and the experience of being caught snorting coke by the News Of The World. Jokes include, "If my dad could see me up here now, he'd be very impressed But you know, I'm sure wherever my dad s now he would be looking down on us. He s not dead, just very condescending "

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Fri 14 Mar

Tinie Tempah

Having started out by releasing music independently on his Disturbing London label, Tinie was spotted playing at Wireless in July 2009 and signed up to Parlophone three months later. His first album, Disc-Overy, debuted at Number One in the UK in 2010. The following year saw him win two Brit Awards - for Best British Breakthrough Act and Best British Single. Pass Out, Frisky, Written In The Stars and ET are just a few of the chart successes that have turned him into a music megastar. Due to popular demand, an extra Wolverhampton date has been added to this UK tour, which is taking place in support of new album Demonstration.

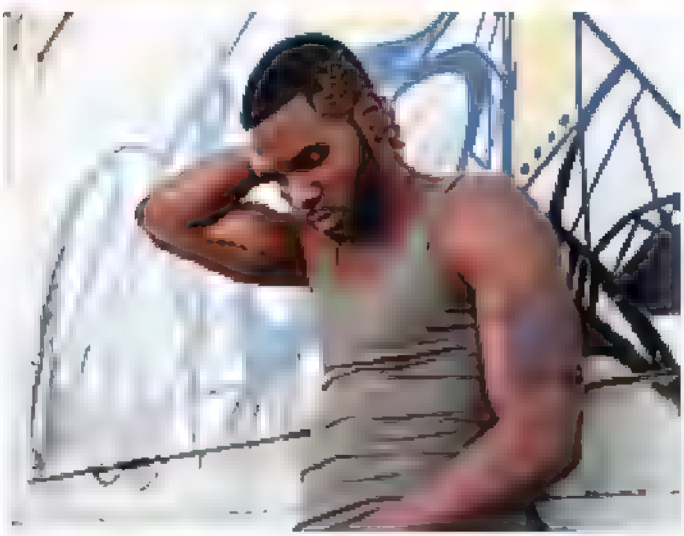
Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Tues 25 - Wed 26 March



Jack Savoretti

Inheriting his brooding good looks from his mother - a Polish-German model - and his Italian father, Jack Savoretti is blessed with a husky and hugely captivating voice. Releasing third album Before The Storm in 2012, he's called his previous works 'my education and my college years', owing to the difficulty he had in reaching a sufficiently wide audience. Having supported Jake Bugg, Gabrielle Aplin and Bruce Springsteen last year, Jack is here stepping out for one of seven dates on a headlining tour to support new EP Sweet Hart.

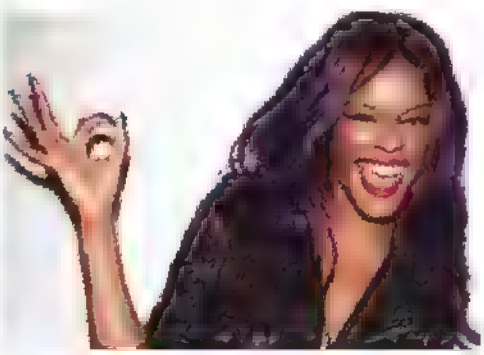
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Mon 31 March



Jason Derulo

Scoring the hit of his life with Talk Dirty, which made it to number one in the UK and New Zealand, Jason Derulo returns with an eight-date tour, his biggest ever in the UK and Ireland. A talented writer, Jason penned every song on new album Tattoos - including Vertigo, his collaboration with girlfriend Jordin Sparks. Recently revealing a secret skill on Instagram - the ability to tap dance - he'll here be singing songs from his three-album back-catalogue, and is supported by Conor Maynard.

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Sat 22 March



Azealia Banks

Harlem-born bisexual singer Azealia Banks is certainly one feisty young rapper, having waged feuds with a long list of fellow musicians, including Miley Cyrus, Lady Gaga and Lily Allen. Bursting onto the scene in 2008, when she adopted the pseudonym 'Miss Bank$' and began releasing her music through MySpace,

She's certainly no shrinking violet, and thinks nothing of peppering her song lyrics with a selection of profanities her debut single, 212, saw her using the C-word more than ten times. In fairness to her, she did try to put a more acceptable spin on things by explaining that "to be c.y is to be feminine and to be, like, aware of yourself".

She appears in Birmingham in support of her debut album, Broke With Expensive Taste.

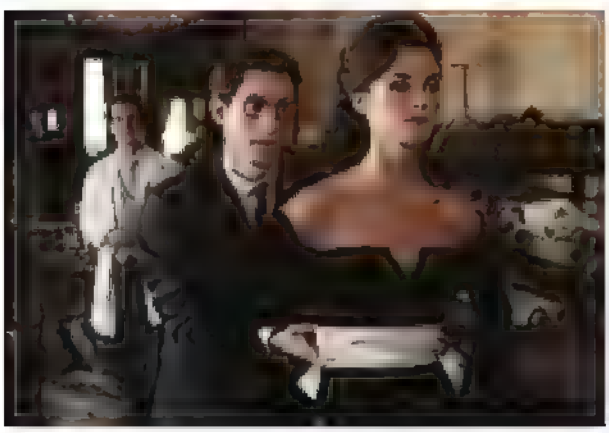
O2 Academy, Birmingham, Thur 27 March

Stranger By The Lake CERT 18 (100 mins)

Starring **Pierre Deladonchamps, Christophe Paou, Patrick d'Assumçao**
Directed by **Alain Guiraudie (France)**

Alain Guiraud e's atmospheric thr ler is set at a beautiful lakeside spot in southern France, frequented by men sunbathing in the summer heat and seeking out anonymous casual encounters in the nearby woods
Handsome and naive cruiser Franck comes across Michel, a striking masculine and moustachioed figure, whilst swimming He becomes infatuated and must seduce him at any cost. His desire is tested when one night hebears witness to murder and, as a silent witness must wrestle between his passion and his moral integrity

Mac, Birmingham showing Sun 9 - Tue 13 March



Yves Saint Laurent CERT 15 (106 mins)

Starring **Pierre Niney, Guillaume Gallienne, Charlotte Lebon, Laura Smet**
Directed by **Jalil Lespert (France)**

With a title like this, you can expect a good deal of fashion Indeed, this is a biog of the Frenchman once described as the most influential fashion designer of the latter part of the twentieth century. However, Lespert s film tackles more than the catwalks and explores Saint Laurent s long-term friendship, love affair and business partnership with Pierre Bergé Amazingly, this is the fifth film to have been made about Saint Laurent.

Out 21 March

About Last Night

CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring **Kevin Hart, Michael Ealy, Regina Hall, Joy Bryant, Paula Patton, Christopher McDonald**
Directed by **Steve Pink (USA)**

A remake of the 1986 romcom that starred Rob Lowe and Demi Moore this version has changed the colour of the characters and switched the location from Chicago to Los Angeles. But it s still about the complications of love, from the first bloom through to a time of reconciliation. And like the first film, it s a rough adaptation of David Mamet's 1974 play Sexual Perversity in Chicago.

Out 21 March

The Zero Theorem

CERT 15 (106 mins)

Starring **Christoph Waltz, Melanie Thierry, David Thewlis, Lucas Hedges, Matt Damon, Tilda Swinton**
Directed by **Terry Gilliam (UK Romania)**

Prior to the Monty Python team getting back together again, its American member managed to direct one of his increasingly rare and unconventional movies. This one is a science fiction fantasy about a computer hacker (Waltz) looking for the meaning of life Of course, it s all there in the algebra, except that Life keeps on getting in the way

Out 12 March

300: Rise Of An Empire CERT 15 (102 mins)

Starring **Sullivan Stapleton, Eva Green, Lena Headey, Hans Matheson, Rodrigo Santoro, David Wenham**
Directed by **Noam Murro (USA/Bulgaria)**

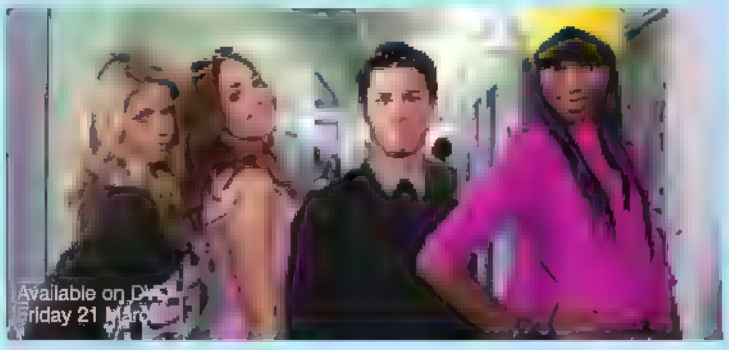
Seven years ago Zack Snyder's sword-and-sandal epic 300 made Gerard Butler a major star Now we have the sequel in which the Australian actor Sullivan Stapleton (Animal Kingdom) plays the Greek general Themistokles who defends his people from invading Persian forces led by Xerxes (Santoro) Expect lots of fighting. In 3D and (in some cinemas) IMAX. **Out 7 March**

DVDs

G.B.F (12)

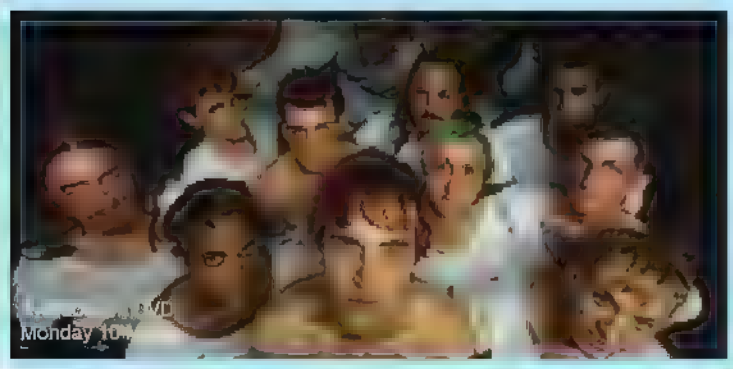
Meet Tanner and Brent, two gay best friends. Brent longs for the spotlight, and believes that coming out will make him this year's must-have teen-girl accessory. North Gateway High's very first G.B.F. (or Gay Best Friend).
Tanner, on the other hand, would rather fly under the radar and finish high school without ever being noticed.

When things don't go according to plan and Tanner is outed instead of Brent, the two boys go from being B.F.Fs to instant frenemies. Enter, the three most popular girls in school - queen-of-mean bombshell Fawcett, drama club diva Caprice, and sweet Mormon good-girl Ashley, who launch an all-out social war to win Tanner's status-enhancing friendship.



Boys On Film 11 (18)

Boys On Film 11: We Are Animals showcases short works from around the world that challenge genre, initiate discussion and explore issues of sexuality in beautiful ways. Be entertained, moved and affected by the latest in the ever-original and consistently powerful LGBT shorts series.
This diverse and daring compilation tells stories ranging from the whimsical, heart-rending and poignant to the unflinchingly bold and provocative. Latent ambitions are vibrantly brought to life in a remote part of Alaska, a forbidden lust comes to fruition in Denmark; a friendship is tested to dangerous limits; and a devoted father is faced with his teenage son's budding sexuality.



...and something to read

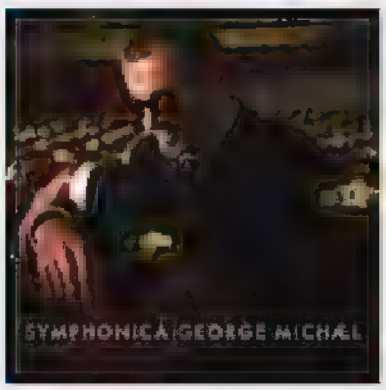
Maggie & Me by Damian Barr

It's 12 October 1984. An IRA bomb blows apart the Grand Hotel in Brighton. Miraculously, Margaret Thatcher survives. In small-town Scotland, eight year-old Damian Barr watches in horror as his mum rips off her wedding ring and packs their bags. Damian knows that, just like Thatcher, he too must survive.
Maggie & Me is a touching and darkly witty memoir about surviving Thatcher's Britain; a story of growing up gay in a straight world and coming out the other side. In spite of, or maybe even because of, the Iron Lady.

New Music

The Power Of Love
Sam Bailey

Last year's X Factor winner Sam Bailey unleashes her debut album this month. Featuring a number of covers, newly-penned tracks and a couple of duets, the album looks set to put the Leicester lass on top of the charts.



Symphonica
George Michael

One-time Wham! frontman and iconic '80s pop star George Michael returns this month with his sixth solo album. A member of Britain's pop royalty for three decades now, his new album Symphonica is highly anticipated.

Is There Anybody Out There?
A Great Big World

Following the success of top ten single Say Something, much is expected of A Great Big World's debut album, which comes complete with an uplifting pop vibe.

birmingham lgbt **VACANCY**

Heritage Project Officer

Birmingham LGBT is seeking to recruit to a new and exciting post of Heritage Project Officer to deliver a Heritage Lottery funded project called 'Coming Out Stories'. The project will enable young lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people to discover the political, social and personal context of 'coming out' and what it has meant to LGBT people.

£24,892 pro rata
Plus up to 5% matched pension contributions.
Flexible 18.5 hours per week,
with regular evening and weekend work;
pro rata 25 days annual leave entitlement.
18 month Fixed term contract.

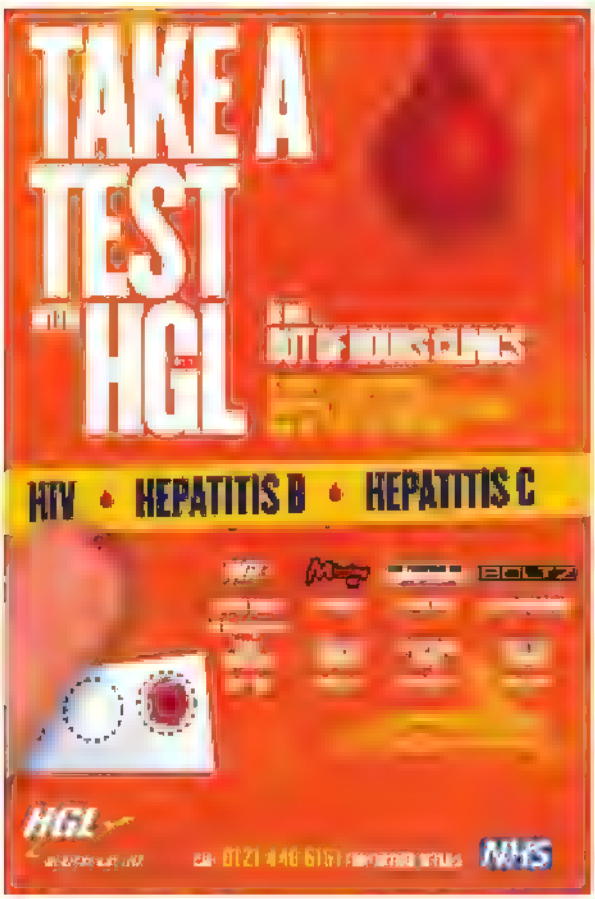
Closing Date for applications Friday 21 March 2014, midday

For more information contact recruitment@blgbt.org
call 0121 643 0821 or download an application pack

www.blgbt.org/vacancies

Birmingham LGBT is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Supported using money from The National Lottery



LGBTQ SERVICES

DUDLEY GAY & BI MENS GROUP

SANDWELL GAY & BI MENS GROUP

UNIQUE

GLEE

OUR TRIBE

FREE LGBTQ AWARENESS TRAINING

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT

Legal Scene: Same-Sex Marriage
What it means for gay couples...

It's been a controversial and historic journey, but same-sex marriages can finally take place from 29 March 2014. Here, Lee Trubshaw, Partner at solicitors Bradin Trubshaw & Kirwan LLP and specialist in civil partnership dissolution, explains what the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act, which officially became law in July 2013, actually means for gay couples.

Is a same-sex marriage the same as a marriage between a man and a woman?

Essentially the new Act, which only applies to England and Wales, means that same-sex marriages are lawful and the equivalent to a marriage between a man and a woman. Couples can elect to marry in a civil or religious ceremony but only where the religious organisation has 'opted in' and the minister of religion agrees. Religious organisations such as the Church of England, Church in Wales and other faith groups opposed to conducting same-sex marriages are protected by the Act from legal challenge. There are a couple of exceptions to same-sex marriages, though: divorce cannot be granted on the grounds of adultery, and marriages cannot be annulled because of non-consummation. Also, there's still inequality with regard to pensions, but a review relating to occupational pension schemes and survivor benefits is underway.

My partner and I entered a civil partnership two years ago. Can we convert it into a marriage?

At the present time, an existing civil partnership does not automatically become a marriage. There are, however, plans for this to become possible by the end of this year - it's taking longer, as new procedures and processes have to be introduced. What this means though, is that couples who wish to marry before the process is finalised will have to formally dissolve their civil partnership first. Yet dissolution is only possible on the grounds of unreasonable behaviour, two years' desertion, two years separation (with consent) or five years' separation (without consent). This delay has been disappointing for many in the gay community.

From when does a converted marriage date?

Once civil partnerships can be converted into a marriage, the civil partnership will come to an end. The marriage will be considered to have existed from the date of the civil partnership. Civil partnerships remain legally recognised in England and Wales - so same-sex couples now have the choice of getting married or entering into a civil partnership.

Where can a same-sex marriage be held?

A same-sex marriage has to be held in an appropriately registered building - which means that the religious organisation has to apply to the Registrar General for a building to be certified as a place of worship, and to be registered as authorised to sanctify a same-sex marriage.

How does the new legislation affect same-sex couples who live abroad?

One great advantage for same-sex married couples is that, in countries where same-sex marriage is legal, civil partnerships are not recognised. So UK civil partners living abroad do not enjoy the same rights as same-sex married couples. In addition, the new Act provides for same-sex marriages entered into in other countries to be recognised as marriages in England and Wales - previously, same-sex marriages entered into abroad were treated as civil partnerships.

Does the Act affect transgendered people?

The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act allows married persons registered in England and Wales to change their legal gender without first having to divorce. That means that, where both parties want to remain married, a transgender person can now be issued with a full Gender Recognition Certificate. This is a positive step forward. Previously, some people who changed gender refrained from having their new gender legally recognised, as they could only do so by divorcing or dissolving their partnership.

For advice on Powers of Attorney, civil partnerships and other legal matters, contact Bradin Trubshaw & Kirwan LLP on 01543 421840 for a consultation, or email jt@btpsolicitors.co.uk. For more information, visit [illegible]

Lee Trubshaw

Leicester gets flexible with LGBT yoga

Trade Sexual Health has announced the launch of yoga classes tailored specifically for the gay community and their supporters.

If you're in need of a little relaxation - or maybe just want to try and get your leg behind your head! - yoga instructor Ryan James will be on hand to put you through your paces every Thursday evening at Leicester's LGBT Centre (from 7pm).
Each session is mixed-ability, so anybody can get involved.

Each yoga session costs £5 and combines stretching and movement with breath work, meditation and relaxation.

HIV charity hoping dinner event will give Midlands gay community food for thought

The Midlands gay community is being asked to take part in a unique dinner event to raise funds for a UK-based HIV charity.

The charity, AidsArk, works to make HIV medication available in the developing world, and is holding its annual Dinner For One event on Saturday 1 March.

The idea is to host a dinner for friends at home, with the intention being to raise £300. For every £300 AidsArk raises, one life is saved for one year.

For more information, v[illegible] www.aidsark.org

Gay Midlanders over 50 and living with HIV set to benefit from new guide

Midlands-based health and social care staff could soon be offering an improved service to gay over-50s who're living with HIV, thanks to a recently launched UK guide.

Published by sexual health charity Terrence Higgins Trust, The Health, Wealth & Happiness Good Practice Guide is aimed at staff working within the NHS, adult social services and community settings.

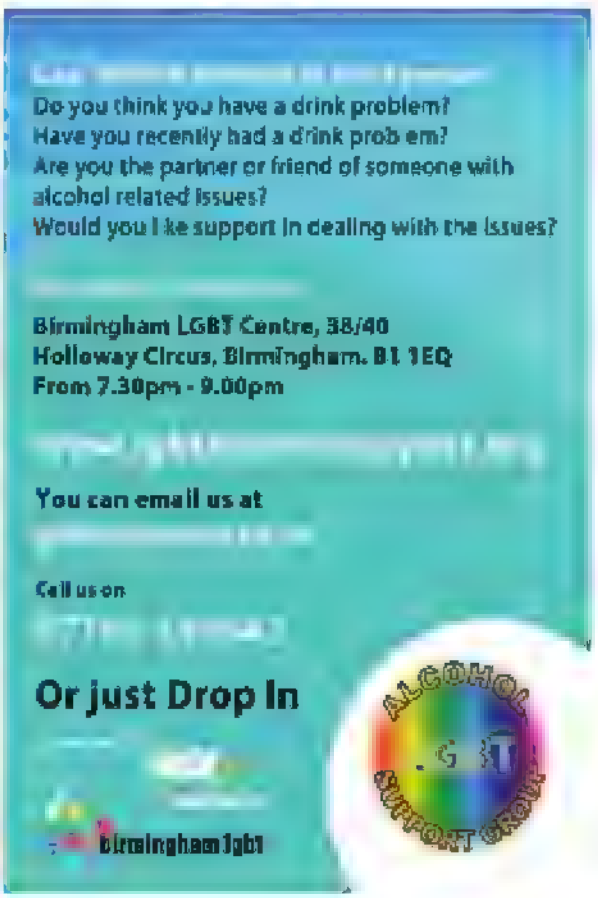
As well as highlighting the challenges that older people living with HIV can face, the guide offers practical advice about how to commission and deliver services for this group, including peer mentoring, advice and group work projects. The guide is free to download from www.tht.org.uk/hwh.

Older people are the fastest-growing group living with HIV in the UK. In 2012, an estimated 24,510 people with the condition were aged 50 or over. These numbers are set to double over the next five years, as people with HIV age and others contract the virus later in life.

Terrence Higgins Trust's groundbreaking research project, 50 Plus, revealed that a significant proportion of people living with HIV over the age of 50 live alone, experience poverty, have limited family support, and are likely to need support from formal services such as social services, care homes and sheltered housing.

The Good Practice Guide has been created as part of Terrence Higgins Trust's Health, Wealth & Happiness project, a pilot initiative funded by the Big Lottery Fund and the Daily Mail.

For more information on the Good Practice Guide, visit www.tht.org.uk/hwh


Do you think you have a drink problem?
Have you recently had a drink problem?
Are you the partner or friend of someone with alcohol related issues?
Would you like support in dealing with the issues?
Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38/40
Holloway Circus, Birmingham. B1 1EQ
From 7.30pm - 9.00pm
You can email us at
Call us on
Or just Drop In
birminghamlgbt
ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP

LGBT Network Wolverhampton offers a host of social and support groups for the city's LGBT community

If you're looking to engage with Wolverhampton s massive LGBT community, LGBT Network Wolverhampton has a great selection of social, support and sports groups for you to enjoy. Here s a selection of some of our favourites...

If you re looking for an off-the-scene place to enjoy the company of other gay and bisexual men, the LADS Café provides a friendly atmosphere in which to meet likeminded people over a relaxing drink It runs every Monday from 6pm till 9pm at the Old Bank Chambers on Salop Street

Meanwhile, there's a monthly lunch meet-up for mature gay and bisexual men on the third Saturday of the month (between 11am and 2pm). The Saturday lunch provides an opportunity to relax, chat and meet new friends. Pop down to Gorgeous Bar on School Street to join in

For something a bit different, check out ACE (A Choir of Equality) hosted at the LGBT Network every Thursday from 5 30pm to 7pm The choir welcomes anybody from the LGBT community (and their friends), regardless of singing ability

For LGBT professionals and business people across the Black Country, a monthly LGBT Professionals group offers the chance to chat with fellow businessmen. Whether you re looking to create new contacts, gain new business or just make a couple of new friends this social event is a great way to spend an evening. Contact the network for dates and locations.

Football fans, meanwhile, should head to Northwood Sports Hall every Thursday (from 7pm) to get involved in Community Indoor Football sessions run in partnership with the network Wolverhampton and Wolves Warriors AFC. Everyone over 18 is welcome - the first session s free, and £2 thereafter

Keep fit and have a bit of fun at the same time - by joining the LGBT Zumba Group. Taking place at Gorgeous Bar on School Street every Thursday night from 7pm. It offers a chance to stay in shape in a fun, friendly and non-judgmental environment. Each session costs just £2.

There are plenty more social, support and activity groups available across the Midlands Turn the page and check them out in our extensive Community Directory

The Wolves Warriors help run indoor footy sessions for Wolverhampton's LGBT community

[redacted]

[redacted]

ACE A Choir of Equality Meets every Thursday 5.30-7pm Tel 01902 425092

ACTING OUT An acting group for the LGBT community open to anyone. Contact acting_out@internet.com or visit www.actingout.org.uk

ARTPRIDE Art group Contact beckyteobett@hotmail.com

BARDS & BOOKS Reading group. Every 1st Monday monthly. LGBT Centre B'ham e.hadenshouse@hotmail.com

BGSO Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra Contact info@bgso.org.uk or visit www.bgso.org.uk

DUDLEY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Friday Of Every Month Tel 01384 815560

GAPP Gay and Performing Proudly. Birmingham Call Mike 0845 345 3791

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MIKE NIGHT Meets last Tues monthly at The Red Tent. Tel: Bobba 07777 692881

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir. Meets every Tues in Leicester Call Chris on 07740 855248

LGBT READING GROUP Every 3rd Wednesday monthly 7pm Tel Jayne 01902 552060

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT Film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly www.journeyfilmclub.co.uk

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative activities for gay men. Call Jon 07974 477206

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir. Call Carolyn 07828 641484 or Kevin 07793 363850

SMETHWICK LIBRARY LGBT Reading Group 1st Monday monthly 5.45pm Tel 0121 558 0437

UNTOLD STORIES LGBT History project in Leicestershire & Rutland e.dennis@leicestergbt centre.org

WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB 1st Sat monthly 11am Walsall Central Library Contact Kim 01922 653121

[redacted]

ANOTHER WAY LGBT Social group meets in Walsall every Saturday afternoon, 2-4pm. Federation House, 39 King St. Walsall Tel: 07715 273748

WS MIDLANDS LGBT Social group, Every 1st Tues monthly 7-9pm in Walsall. Tel: 07895 661557

BRUM BI GROUP Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the HGL drop in. Tel 07532 385760.

BRUM DINING OUT Meets at a different restaurant each month. e: brumdiningout@hotmail.com

COVENTRY LADS social group away from the scene. Call 02476 229292

DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY Based in Leicester www.dmulgbt.co.uk

DERBYSHIRE CC Employee Network www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council-services/employee_network.asp

DERBYSHIRE REACHOUT Men's Social Group Tel 01332 20[redacted]04

DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON-SCENE GROUP 2nd Sat monthly Free buffet lunch provided Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243220

THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN Call 07903 215121 Birmingham contact: 0121 551 3161

EVERGREEN LGBT Social Group in B'ham Tel 0749 4142[redacted]9

FAN LGBT Social Events Group. Northants www.fannorthants.co.uk

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP Call Simon on 0121 565 4166

GAYMEZ LGBT Games Night in Wolverhampton. Twice monthly. Thurs 8-10pm Tel 01902 425092

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gay & Lesbian Community Social group meets every Thurs at Quakers Centre 7.30 Tel 0300 [redacted]

HEREFORD LGBT Gay Men's Drop-in The Health Centre Gaol Street, Hereford No appointment necessary

HIV (HIGH 5) Social Group for men affected by HIV in Leicestershire Tel 0116 254 1747

I ME Group for BME LGBT people in Wolverhampton 2nd Sunday monthly Tel 0781[redacted]5488[redacted]

LADS CAFE Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Call 01952 221410

LADS CAFE Weekly gathering for Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. Every Monday 6-9pm Tel 07788 6[redacted]

LAVENDAR MOVEMENT Praising flowers for all to enjoy. Meet every Tues e: thelavendarmovement@gmail.com

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call Pete on 0116 291 6138

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFÉ Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT PARENTS Network for LGBT parents. www.lgbtparents.net

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent. Meets every Wed at The Observatory, Hanley www.gaystoke.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM BREAKOUT Meets every Tuesday from 7.30. Contact 01159476868.

NUBIAN RAINBOW Celebrating black LGBT people in the community West Midlands Social Group Tel: 0121 446 1086

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing people together since 1995. Call 08450 660060

PINK SOU'WESTERS South West B'ham LGBT Group. Offers non-scene social events and activities. Call 0796 2 4[redacted]71

QUIZ NIGHT 1st Wednesday monthly 7pm @ Grapevine Wolves. Tel: 01902 425092

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Social Non Scene Group. 4th Sat monthly Free buffet lunch provided. Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243220

SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT MONDAY 1st Mon monthly at UHM. 3rd Monday monthly at Coffeehouse Shrewsbury

THIRD WAY Social Group for Bi people over 18 Every 3rd Tuesday monthly in Wolverhampton 7.30pm Tel 07902 425092

TRUE COLOURS Derby based BME LGBT Social group Call 07[redacted]9 5[redacted]284

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Community Group www.brewery tap.org.uk

WAGS Walsall Activities Social Group. Over 18s only. e: sgawwalsall@hotmail.com

WARWICK PRIDE Social society. Organises events on and around the University Campus e: hello@warwickpride.org

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BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK Formed in 2002 E-mail bccglpf@hotmail.com

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST Campaigning and lobbying, promoting community cohesion and representing LGBT community's views e: davevinney@lgbt.org

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST FORUM For LGB Groups. Quarterly Forum open to all LGB groups for networking e: davevinney@lgbt.org

BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION FORUM A safe discrete confidential space for black men to discuss issues that affect their lives. Call 0121 446 1086

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED LGBT history project. e: dave@gaybirmingham remembered.org.uk

LEICESTER LGB & T CENTRE Host numerous social groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON To raise and develop the profile of the Wolves LGBT community. Tel: 01902 425092

MIDLANDS LGBT EMPLOYEES NETWORK Call: 02476 492711

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Gay Men's Drop-in Call 01782 425969

PINK SHIELD Working to make Birmingham a safer place for the LGBT Community Tel 0121 622 2592

PRISM A forum for LGBT people in Leicester Call 0116 254 7412

RAINBOW HERITAGE Northamptonshire Call 0115 934 9529

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Hosts events for professionals and the LGBT community Tel 0116 254 1747

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EMBRACE Group for gay and bi men in Coventry aged over 30. Rainbows Coventry. Call James on 07824 448717 or Nichola. on 024[redacted]231999

GREYPRIDE LEICESTER mixed group aimed at mature LGBT people Call 0116 254 7412

LADS LUNCH Monthly lunch for mature Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. 3rd Sat monthly 11am-2pm. Tel: 01902 425092

MATURE GAY GROUP Meets in Shrewsbury every Friday 11am - 1pm Call Trevor on 07779 861640

MATURE GAY MEN For older gay men. Call Trevor on 0754 8[redacted]948

OLDER LADS CAFE Weekly group for mature (over 40) Gay and Bisexual men in Wolves. Every Monday 1-4pm. Tel: 01902 425092

OLDER LBG Women's network social group. Derby based. Call 07779 5[redacted]284

RUBY'S A mature lesbian & bisexual women's group Tel 01902 425092

STOKE OLDER PERSONS GROUP Social group for mature LGBT Tel 01782 2[redacted]8

[redacted]

BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST CENTRE Meditation Drop-in classes Tel 0121 449 [redacted]9

BIRMINGHAM LGCM Christian Organisation group Tel 0843 0103345

CHANGING ATTITUDE Contact The Revd Colin Coward on 01380 724905

DERBY QUEST for Spirituality Sun 5-6.30pm Tel 0796 812957

JOURNEY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Birmingham Call 0121 454 4416 Wolverhampton Call 07734 1[redacted]

LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, their families and friends Call 07905 421915

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS Lesbian and Gay Christian movement Tel 0121 603 1249 or text 07973 [redacted]

QUAKER Lesbian & Gay Fellowship. Social and supportive group founded on Quaker spiritual principals www.qcgf.org.uk

QUEST LINKLINE A national confidential telephone helpline service for lesbian, gay and bisexual Catholics Tel 0808 808 [redacted]

RAINBOW MOOT LGBT Pagans. All Pagan paths welcome. Call Rob on 07943 3[redacted]

STAFFORDSHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS Support group for lesbian and gay christians e: anazo[redacted]@hotmail.com or call 07974 [redacted]

Sport &

BIRMINGHAM BLAZE LGBT Friendly Football Team www.birmingham-blaze.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM BULLS LGBT friendly rugby team. Call Andy 07708 [redacted] or visit birminghambullsrfc.com

BOURNVILLE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB LGBT friendly hockey in south Birmingham www.bournvillehc.co.uk

LEICESTER WILDE CATS Gay & Lesbian Football Team Call Gareth 0116 2[redacted]37

LGBT Community Indoor Football Wolverhampton Tel 07902 425092

LGBT Zumba Wolverhampton Tel 01902 425092

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB Walks twice a month on Sundays Contact gocwm@yahoo.co.uk

MIDLANDS OUT BADMINTON Birmingham. Call Andy on 024 [redacted]141

MOSELEY SHOALS Birmingham's GOC Gay Swim Group. For info call 0121 346 1522

NOTTINGHAM BALL BOIS Gay football team founded in 2006. Call 07868 014962

OUTDOORLADS Outdoor pursuits group for gay lads www.outdoorlads.com

STOKE PANTHERS BADMINTON SQUASH CLUB Call Andy on 01782 2[redacted]67

WOLVES WALKERS Tel: 01902 425092

WOLVES WARRIORS Football Club. Tel: Andy on 07825 3[redacted]

[redacted]

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNI LGBT Social events every week www.bcuglbt.com

LGBT & FRIENDS SOCIETY University of Derby Students' Union www.uds.lgbt.com

LGBT ASTON UNIVERSITY Tel: 0121 204 3000

STUDENT GROUPS Leicester University - contact Alex e: arm15@leicester.ac.uk or Hayley e: [redacted]president@hotmail.co.uk

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM LGBTQ ASSOCIATION Social events every Wednesdays & Sundays e: lgbtq@guild.bham.ac.uk

[redacted]

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS e-mail network e: Birmingham Girlsnetworksubscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK GROUP Women-centered book group. Meets 1st Sun of the month 3.30pm Tel: 0121 622 [redacted]

BI WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP For information contact Bobbie at sparkle3188[redacted]@hotmail.com

BOOTWOMEN Walks in the Midlands area. Call 07505 9[redacted]

L BOW ROOM Social Group for women over 18. Meets every 2nd & fourth Wednesday monthly Tel 07817 548802

FOX FILM CLUB Women-centred film group every 3rd Sunday monthly www.foxbar.co.uk

KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS Lesbian social group meets bi-weekly at local pub e: lilygalore@blueyonder.co.uk

DO YOU NEED TO GIVE YOUR LGBT COMMUNITY GROUP MORE EXPOSURE?

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To find out more about all these organisations and their website and contact details

OLDER LESBIAN GROUP for the over 40's meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1pm at 1 [illegible] in Trowell. Contact Ian [illegible]@hotmail.co.uk

RUBY'S Mature Women's Group. Weekend activities. Tel: [illegible]

RUBYFRUIT WOMEN Leicester based non-scene social group for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women of all ages. Wednesday nights from 7pm. Tel: [illegible]

THE PINK LINK is a social space in Staffordshire for women with a different vision. Call [illegible]

WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP Meets twice monthly, e-mail myself [illegible]@outlook.com

[illegible] Groups

DERBYSHIRE LGBT Youth Forum. Tel: [illegible]

1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP Leicester LGB Centre, 15 Wellington Street, Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

GALAXY Group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged 18 and under in [illegible] and North Staffordshire. Call: 0300 123 0970

I-MIX Group for young LGBTQ people in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: [illegible]

INSIDE OUT Sandwell. A youth club for LGBT and questioning young people aged [illegible]. Tel: 0845 352 1276

OUTBURST Nottingham. Support group for LGBT young people. Tel: [illegible] 952 5040

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for youths, aged 14-19 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality. Call: [illegible]

OUT EAST Youth group based in Sutton Coldfield. Tel: 07795 611781

SHOUT Sandwell. An LGBT youth steering group which works towards giving LGBT young people a voice in Sandwell. Tel: 0845 352 1276

SPACE LGBT YOUTH GROUP A group for young people aged 11 to 21. Tel: [illegible] 411413

SPECTRUM - YOUNG LGBT SOCIAL GROUP Leicestershire Group offering opportunities for young LGBT people. Call: 0116 254 7412

UNIQUE Group for young LGBT people. Meet twice monthly on Sundays. Call Matt or Justin 01384 243220

XZY Group for young LGBT people in Wolverhampton. Every Saturday. e: info[illegible]xzy.org.uk

HIV/AIDS Helplines

ABPLUS A Charity supporting people living with and affected by HIV. Call: 0[illegible]

FRESHWINDS HOUSE Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel: 0121 415 6670 (8 lines).

HEALTHY GAY LIFE BIRMINGHAM Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well being. Tel: 0121 440 6161

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES Tel: 0116 255 9559

STAFFORDSHIRE BUDDIES Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV. Tel: 01782 201201

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT Practical Support and confidential advice around all HIV & STI related issues in the Dudley, Sandwell borough. Tel: 0[illegible] 243220

TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST Offer a range of services for those infected and affected by HIV and STIs. Birmingham: 0121 694 6440. Shrewsbury: 01[illegible] 694 6440. Coventry: 024 [illegible]. Nottingham: 0115 [illegible]. Telford: 01952 [illegible]. Wolves: 01902 [illegible]

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services, advice and support for LGBT communities affected by HIV & STIs. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1447

Health Helplines

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND Tel: 02476 714199

DERBYSHIRE LGBT SWITCHBOARD Tel: [illegible] 349033

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE PROJECT Leicester. Tel: 0116 255 0004

GAYLIFE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Tel: 0300 123 0970

HATE CRIME NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Talk to a Hate Crime officer in confidence. Covering Stoke area. Tel: 01782 266998 (Loleita Higgins) North Staffs Tel: 01785 233458 (John Wilson)

LBG COUNSELLING SERVICE Free counselling service for all sorts of LGB related issues. Call: 01[illegible]

LEICESTER LGBT HELP-LINE Tel: 01[illegible]

LGBT AA MEETING West Midlands. 8pm every Sat. Summit House, Dudley. Tel: 01384 243220

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent & North Staffs. Tel: 01782 266998

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD [illegible] 8485 or 0[illegible]

RAINBOW SUPPORT HEREFORDSHIRE Free and confidential support. Call: [illegible]

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers counselling services and one to one support for LGBT communities. Leicester. Tel: 01[illegible]

VICTIM SUPPORT Provides emotional support and practical help to anyone who has been a victim of crime. Tel: 0300 303 1977

Sexual Health

BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE Support groups, Sexual Health Testing, Cafe, Community Galleries, Events and more. Tel: 0121 643 0821

THE BRIDGE CENTRE Shrewsbury. A free sexual health service for gay and Bisexual men. Tel: 01743 3444 4

BROOK BIRMINGHAM Free and confidential sexual health services in the West. Tel: 0121 248 2500

DUDLEY GAY MEN'S PROJECT Free & Confidential support service for gay, bi-sexual and M.S.M men living in or around Dudley. Call: Matt Barlow on [illegible] 9066[illegible]

HAWTHORNE HOUSE Sexual health testing also operates a Walk in Service every morning from 9.30am - 11.30am. Tel: 0121 424 3300 or 0121 424 2458

HEALTHY GAY LIFE Birmingham. Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well being. Call: 0121 440 6161

HEREFORD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC at GOAL STREET Open Monday - Friday. Call: 01432 [illegible] for appointments and walk in times

HIV FAST TEST Free 20 minute HIV testing in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

HIV TESTING by appointment at Summit House, West Bromwich. Call: Matt Barlow on [illegible] 243220 or 0121 500 5205

LGBT SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs. Tel: 01543 411413

MEN ONLY Sexual Health Clinic at Heroes Health Club, Stourbridge. Call: Matt on [illegible] 9066[illegible]

OUTMINDS A social support group for gay and bisexual men with mental health problems living in the Solihull borough. Call: 0121 742 4941

SANDWELL GAY & BI MEN'S SERVICE sexual health and social support. Call: Matt Barlow on [illegible] 9066[illegible]

THE RAINBOW PRACTICE Every 1st & last Wednesday of the month. Held at The [illegible] Men's Drop-in. Call: 0300 123 [illegible]

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services for LGB men and women and support for those affected by HIV & STIs including sexual health testing services. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1447

WALSALL GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT Delivering health and social care services to the LGBT community. Tel: [illegible] 6[illegible]

WHITTALL STREET A sexual health clinic located in Birmingham city centre. Tel: 0[illegible]

WORCESTERSHIRE GAY MEN'S HEALTH Project providing free confidential advice & support. Tel: 01905 681[illegible]

Support Groups

ABplus Bi-Weekly Men's Group. Meets 1st Thursday most they for information and support. Call: Peter on [illegible] 4043[illegible]

ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART Recovery LGB&T group. Call: Emma 07817 745079

BIRMINGHAM PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Meets 1st Wednesday bi-monthly in Solihull. Tel: Maureen on 0121 742 3230

BEAM Black ethnic & Asian Mentality. Social and support group in Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans. Need to talk? Call [illegible] 714199 Mon - Fri 7.30pm - 9pm

CHANGES Based in Wolverhampton. Call: Ilsa on 07864240222 or Maria on 07542 450163

GROUP ONE Derby based support group for LGBT families. Call: 07779 560264

HGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY Mental and sexual health, for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and trans people with a choice of male or female counsellors. Tel: 0121 446 1065 or 07976 919481

HGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP Support and advice for married men. Call: 0121 446 6[illegible]

HIV (HIGH 5) An HIV awareness group for gay/bisexual men who are affected by HIV. Group provides Support, events, outings. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

HIV MEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: [illegible] 2[illegible]

HIV WOMEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: [illegible] [illegible]

INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT A service for young men, South Asian men and African Caribbean men. Tel: 0121 446 [illegible]. Email: info[illegible]

KETTERING OUT AND PROUD ASSOCIATION Offering support in the Kettering area. Call: 07877 [illegible]

LEICESTER LGB&T CENTRE Host numerous support groups. Call: [illegible] 7412

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP Offer support to anybody in the gay community who has alcohol related problems. Tel: Tony on 0[illegible] 6161 or 07760 195642

LGBT NETWORK Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire. Tel: [illegible] 266998

LGBT NETWORK Wolverhampton. Holistic support for LGB&T people in the Black Country. Tel: [illegible]

LGBT COUNSELLING Wolverhampton. Holistic support for LGB&T people in the Black Country. Tel: [illegible]

LGBT PROFESSIONALS in Wolverhampton. Meets once a month. Tel: [illegible] 425092

MIND OUT Mental Health Support Group in Wolverhampton. 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

NATURAL HEALING For emotional and physical health. Contact Alison, Lesbian Homeopath. Tel: 01902 688087

NEW ROAD PARENTS Bromsgrove and surrounding areas. Supporting parents of LGBT people. Meets bi-monthly in the 1st week. Tel: Margaret [illegible]

PINK PARENTS A social networking group for all lesbian and gay parents and their children. E: pink parents-subscribe@[illegible].com

RANK OUTSIDERS Support group for LGB armed forces personnel, past & present. Helpline [illegible] 7[illegible]

RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT BIRMINGHAM Free confidential counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual, domestic violence and hate crimes. Tel: 0121 200 1045

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Drop-in Service. Every Friday. Tel: 0[illegible] 243220

STONEWALL Free information service. Tel: [illegible]

SWAIN Wyre Forest Meets the last Wednesday monthly. For more details phone Tel: [illegible]

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Tel: 01905 429800

Trans Support

GENDER MATTERS Drop-in every Thurs. Tel: 0[illegible] 444[illegible]

LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES for info visit facebook.com/groups/butterfliesleicester/

OUTSKIRTS TRANS GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP The west Midlands largest transgender social support group. Email [illegible] or visit www.outskirtstg.co.uk

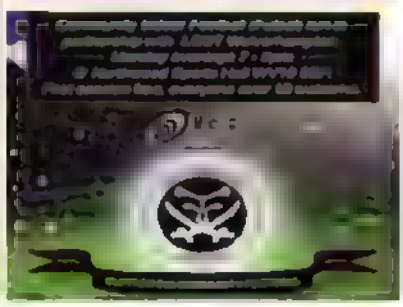
SANCTUARY Providing support and practical help. Tel: [illegible]

SANCTUARY STOKE Support people who are Transsexual, Transvestite or Transgender in North Staffs. www.jaystore.org.uk

TRANS SOUTH STAFFS Support and group for people who are Trans, Transvestite or Transgender. Tel: [illegible] 411413

TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday, monthly. Tel: [illegible]

To get your LGBT Group listed
Call Arwan Parker on
01743 281714



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gay-sauna.com

SPARTAN
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127 George Road, Erdington , Birmingham, B23 7SH
spartanhealthclub.co.uk

UNIT 2
Tel: 0121 622 7070
Lower Essex Street, Birmingham, B5 6SN
unit2sauna.info

Check out the above venue adverts in this issue

CELTS
Tel: 0116 285 6000
36 Narborough Road Le cester LE3 0BQ
celts-sauna.co.uk

CITY STEAM
Tel: 01332 209150
8-9 St Mary's Gate,Derby DE1 3JF
citysteam.co.uk

CITY STEAM 2
Tel: 0115 959 8603
1 Lennox Street Nott ngham,NG1 1ER
citysteam.co.uk

HEROES HEALTH CLUB
Tel: 01384 442030
4-5 Lower High Street Stourbridge West Midlands, DY8 1TE
heroeshealthclub.com

MANZFIELDS
Tel: 01623 422257
71 Ratcliffe Gate Mansfield, NG18 2JB
manzfields.co.uk

REFLECTIONS
Tel: 0115 955 3103
1a Station House Crocus St, Nottingham, NG3 1BQ
reflectionshealthclub.co.uk

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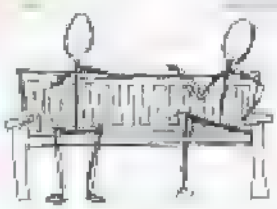

well man clinic at the
Greenhouse
Willenhall Road, Darlaston WS10 8JE
free & confidential sexual health screening

March 6th & 21st
April 3rd & 18th
May 1st & 16th
June 5th & 20th

first Thursday of the month: 2pm - 9pm
third Friday of the month: 5pm - 8pm

clinic at Chameleons
2nd Monday of the month 3-6pm

clinic at the R3troClub
~ Ring for details ~

you do not have to be from Walsall to take advantage of this service

Walsall HIV Team 07863 124 445
morriscolin@walsall.gov.uk ~ melsmore@walsall.gov.uk
Walsall Centre for Sexual Health (GUM) 01922 63 33 41

She Dazzle
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ASYLUM!
1st Saturday of
every month
7pm - 4am
FETISH NIGHT.
Dress Code:
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Boots, Denim
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NO TOWELS
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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GREENHOUSEHC
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Tel 0121 622 7070

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STRICTLY NO TOWELS

SHE DAZZLE
Every Friday All Day
New Changing Facilities/Clothes & Make-Up Now Provided Discounts on entry price for those who arrived already dressed.
FREE BUFFET last Friday of the Month.

BEARS DAY
3rd Saturday Of The Month
Bears Discount for Bear Club Members
FREE BUFFET at 4.30pm

ASYLUM NIGHT
1st Saturday Of The Month
Fetish Wear from 7pm Onwards
Discount on entry for those dressed in Fetish Gear

FREE BUFFET

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LU1 1HX
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THE GUDRUN LIMBRICK COLUMN

A pioneer in the Midlands

"Sex-swap beauty bids to be this year's Miss Coventry", shouted the Coventry Telegraph as Jordan Davis reached the final 15 of the Miss Coventry competition. And fair play to her. She's received online abuse and even death threats in her bid to win the title, but has stood up for her right to achieve her ambition.

Any woman should be able to take part in the competition, and should be able to do so on an equal footing with any other woman. You've got to admire Jordan's bravery and resolve - she's only the second transgender regional contestant in the history of the Miss England competition. And she's still only 17. She's been quoted as saying she wants to be a role model for the transgender community - and if she's got this much resolve and courage while still in her teens, she's no doubt destined for great things in the future.

But I've got to say that I'm constantly surprised that we even have a Miss England competition. It fitted very well into the 1970s, when that whole Miss World thing was incredibly popular - but does it really have a place today? Why do we have a competition in which women are judged on their looks? Why do we have a competition which has no overweight women, no women with disabilities, and in which the inclusion of a woman who's trans is so unusual that it warrants newspaper headlines?

It's not just about the Miss [insert name of town, country, universe] competitions, I have the same issues with the gay male equivalents - and I could rant forever about the beauty pageants for children that we seem to be copying from the Americans. Any competition which is based on superficial stuff like looks (with occasional special talents and likeable character traits), and which has such a narrow definition of what beauty is - slim, able-bodied, young etc - can't be good for our society, as so few of us can meet those ideals.

Personally, I like different. I also like big (I'm eating a bag of Skittles as I write this, as a form of protest), and I very much like interesting - which is all too often dismissed as ugly.

I genuinely hope that Jordan wins Miss Coventry. But I hope that the judges throw away the script and award her the title because of her bravery and her pioneering spirit - those are the real assets that make her tower over her peers.

The best of luck to her!

ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

Mumbo Jumbo

We gays have been at it again, causing havoc wherever we turn. A UKIP councillor has blamed recent storms and floods on an act of God after the Government decided to legalise gay marriage.

"I wrote to David Cameron in April 2012 to warn him that disasters would accompany the passage of his same-sex marriage Bill," wrote David Silvester, who quit the Tories in protest at Cameron's decision to support same-sex marriage.

And it's not just Christians who are up in arms. On her US talk show, Dr Laura Schlesinger said that, as an observant Orthodox Jew, homosexuality is, according to Leviticus, an abomination and cannot be condoned.

Professor James Kauffman, of the University of Virginia, responded online, thanking her for doing so much to educate people about religion, and asking for advice regarding other elements of God's Laws and how to follow them. Some highlights of his letter include:

"Leviticus 25:44 states that we may possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are from neighbouring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians. Can you clarify? Why can't I own Canadians?

"I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?

"I have a neighbour who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself, or should I ask the police to do it?

"A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination (Leviticus 11:10), it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this? Are there 'degrees' of abomination?

"Leviticus 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle-room here?

"My uncle has a farm. He violates Leviticus 19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them (Leviticus 24:10-16)? Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair, like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws(Leviticus)?"

I don't think Professor Kauffman got a reply, but you have to hand it to him for highlighting the absurdity of Laura Schlesinger's views.

Quotes of the month...

Here we take some of our favourite (and often controversial) comments from www.midlandszone.co.uk, Facebook page and Twitter feed...

Gays are 'vermin', like mosquitoes, insists Gambia's president

Let's hope leaders of the free world stop doing business with this idiot!
Corey Smith (via Facebook)

This bit must've taken him ages to conjure up... "As far as I am concerned, LGBT can only stand for Leprosy, Gonorrhoea, Bacteria and Tuberculosis". I can just imagine him asking his kids: "What nasty words start with L,G,B and T, kids? Daddy needs help with his persecution speech!".
Vicky Clamp (via Facebook)

My goodness, wouldn't you have thought a man who has probably been subjected to racism would be more tolerant of others. Disgusting.
Roy Lodge (via Facebook)

Personally, if I were a mosquito, I wouldnt want to touch him with someone else's stinger!
Paul Deakin (via Facebook)

I've been called a few things, but never vermin! Maybe a love rat in my younger days!
Lee Allen (via Facebook)

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